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**Eddy Guerrero:  
Deep-Syxxed By The NWO**

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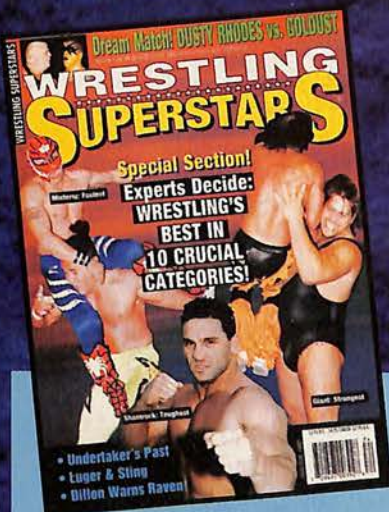


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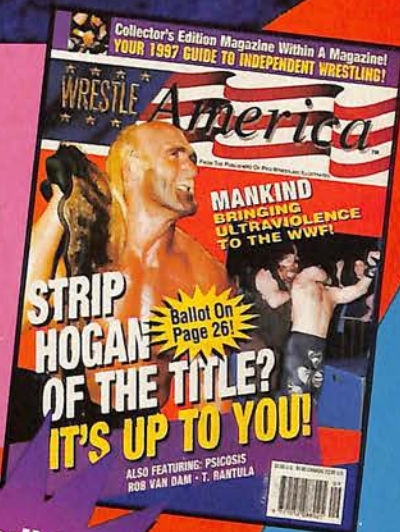
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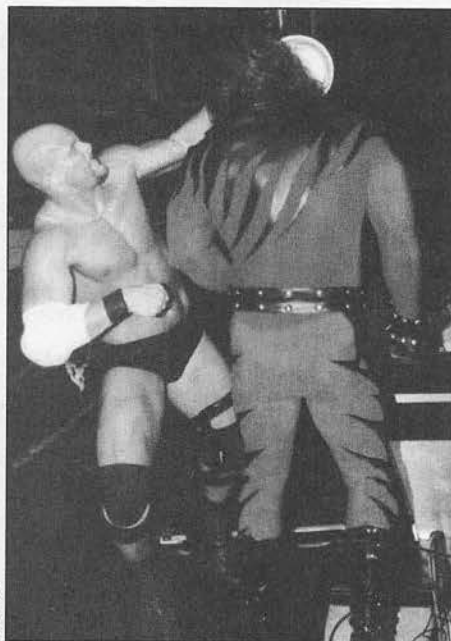
HOLIDAY 1998

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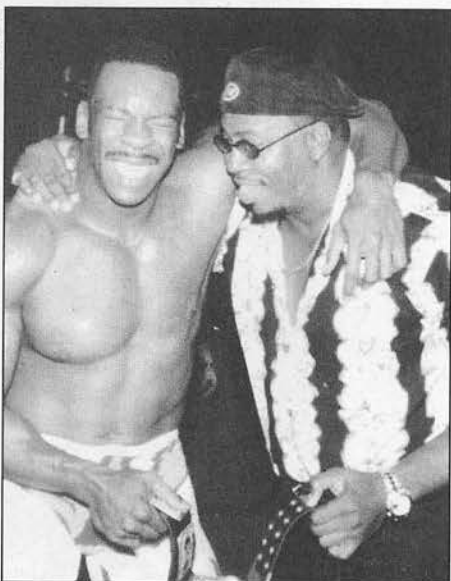
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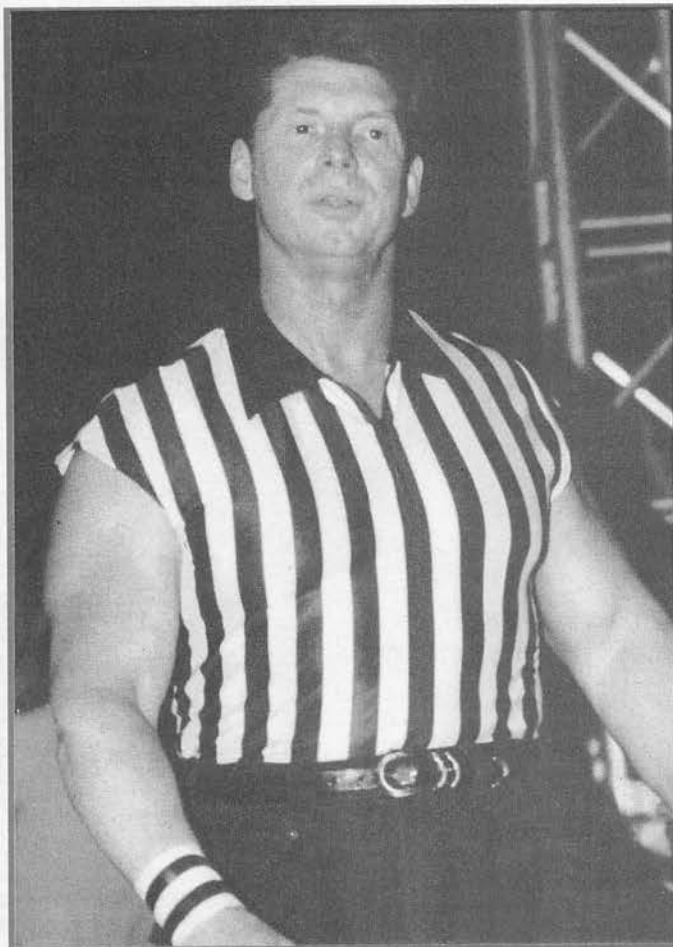
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## **CRAZY OVER VINCE**

Regarding Brandi Mankiewicz' current infatuation with her newest favorite, Vince McMahon, may I suggest to her that this is the same exploitative carnival barker who has peddled so many of "his" wrestlers as ridiculous, larger-than-life, cartoonish buffoons.

I can appreciate Miss Brandi's black-hearted devotion to wrestling's



Vince McMahon is not one to be admired, writes Jackie Jones, who can't understand Managing Editor Brandi Mankiewicz' feelings toward the WWF's owner based on his past history.

"cool" bad guys—hell, I love each and every rulebreaker myself. But a creature like Vince McMahon is beneath contempt. Really, Brandi, elevate your taste. Fall in love with Paul Ellering instead.

**JACKIE JONES**  
Kent, OH

## **A WIN IS A WIN**

I, for one, am sick and tired of hearing how Goldberg needs to use more moves and wrestle in longer matches. I have been hearing this since people started keeping track of his winning streak. That was more than 100 wins, two titles, and numerous *rated* opponents ago.

The Giant. Sting. Hogan. Hall. Raven. Hennig. Konnan. The list goes on and on. If Goldberg keeps this up, WCW will have to change his slogan from "Who's next?" to "Who's left?"

**CARL BURFELD**  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

## **NOT GRADE A**

I just finished reading the "WCW Midyear Report" (October 1998), and I can't understand why you gave Randy Savage an "A." This has been his worst year yet in WCW. He started off 1998 with consecutive losses to Lex Luger at Souled Out and SuperBrawl VIII.

Then he decided to separate himself from Hollywood Hogan and fight him in a steel cage at Uncensored '98, only to walk out of the match. Yes, he did win the World title at Spring Stampede, but he only accomplished that because of Kevin Nash's interference. You failed to mention in your report that Savage was unable to hold on to the belt for longer than a day, even with Nash's interference.

Since Savage blamed Bret Hart for his loss to Hogan, he decided to challenge him to a match at Slamboree '98. Basically, the "Hitman" gave Savage a wrestling lesson he will never forget. I just can't understand why you would give an "A" to a wrestler who lost twice to a man he should have beat-





WCW World champ Bill Goldberg has been too successful against too many top stars (including The Giant) to have to put up with some fans' nit-picking, writes Carl Burfeld.

en, can't win a World title match cleanly, and challenges a master technician to a match he had no chance of winning.

**BILL KAMINSKI**  
Kansas City, KS

## MUTINY?

What I am about to discuss, no doubt, weighs heavily on the minds of Lucha Libre fans everywhere. I am speaking about Eddy Guerrero's request—or should I say *demand*?—to be released from his contract with WCW.

To say the least, I was surprised

to see a side of Eddy that fans have never seen. I was so shocked that I almost vowed to never watch WCW again. Now that I know how terribly Eddy has been treated by Eric Bischoff, I will never trust the WCW president again.

Eddy Guerrero is the definition of wrestling supremacy, not just another wonderful athlete to be suppressed by Bischoff. Eddy comes from a very famous family and has proven himself over and over in the cruiser-weight ranks. Apparently, this isn't good enough for the egomaniacal Bischoff. Eddy doesn't deserve such treatment.

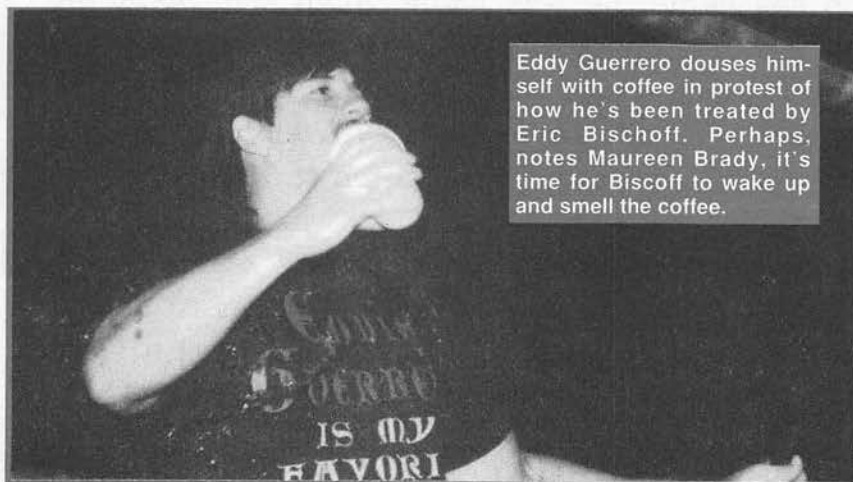
On a personal note, I must admit that I have met and spoken to Eddy many

times, and my nephew has also met and taken pictures with him. Now I can't help but think of how unhappy Eddy is. I don't know what I'll say to my nephew when he asks me why he's gone.

I think it is time for Eddy to defect to an organization that will utilize his obvious talents. Maybe he should lead a mutiny of the underlings in WCW. Something must be done to prevent Bischoff from abusing his power any longer.

**MAUREEN BRADY**  
Orlando, FL

(Continued on page 52)



Eddy Guerrero douses himself with coffee in protest of how he's been treated by Eric Bischoff. Perhaps, notes Maureen Brady, it's time for Bischoff to wake up and smell the coffee.

# Inside Wrestling

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# REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Ric Flair is finally back in WCW—and that's a good thing. The legal wranglings between Flair's attorney's and WCW's attorneys were more painful for the "Nature Boy" than anything he could have been subjected to in the ring. Oh, Flair might not admit to that. He would have been more than willing to wrestle in the WWF—at least that's what he said. He's too proud a man to admit that he has an emotional stake in WCW that goes back even farther than the lifespan of many of the fans who chanted his name during his exile.

Flair would have been a welcome addition to the WWF, said Vince McMahon. And while he certainly wouldn't have been out of place in the federation in which he's already won two World titles, Flair finishing out his career in the WWF would have been as inappropriate as Babe Ruth's final days with the Boston Braves. The Babe was a Yankee during his greatest years and will always be remembered in pinstripes. Flair was one of the greatest—if not the greatest—NWA/WCW champion ever and him *whoooooing* into a WWF microphone, particularly at this stage of his career, just wouldn't seem right.

Deep down, Flair knew that. He began his career at a time when loyalty still meant something to athletes. Flair was the NWA's main man during the WWF's expansion years and would have been a prize catch for McMahon at that time. Out of loyalty to the NWA, Flair resisted the temptation to leave and just might have saved the company by doing so. But as the company passed from Jim Crockett to Ted Turner and then corporate giant Time Warner, Flair felt that he was becoming the forgotten man.

Maybe, after 26 years in the game, he was being taken somewhat for granted. But when he wasn't around, the atmosphere inside the WCW locker room was distinctly different. And a strutless, *whoooooo*-less arena just didn't seem like WCW anymore. I'm not saying that WCW is obligated to keep a wrestler based solely on his years of contribution to the company. But Ric Flair is not just a wrestler. He has earned a spot in the hearts of the fans that time cannot diminish. The spontaneous "We want Flair!" chants during his absence tell only part of the story. Go to any card in any federation and see how the fans respond when a wrestler throws a slap-chop to his opponent's chest. That's the "Nature Boy's" living legacy.



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# NAMES MA

**PAUL BEARER** TOLD me all about a surprise he has in store for **The Undertaker** and **Kane**. His story sounds a bit farfetched, but he insists it is 100 percent true.

"It was years and years ago at the mortuary, before that horrific fire," he said. "I had a real smart kid helping me out. I thought the boy was a fine worker, and I was about to promote him. My son, Kane, used to follow him around all the time. I thought he really looked up to him. But when I told Kane I thought this kid should get a promotion, he told me he was not performing his duties and urged me to fire him. Of course I believed my son.



**PAUL BEARER**

"Just a few months ago, I ran into this young man, and he's now a 6'9", 300-pound behemoth. We spoke for several minutes, and he revealed to me that Kane had him fired because I seemed to favor him professionally, and he was a threat to the relationship I had with my son. When I asked Kane about it, he told me it was true. Now that I see Kane together with **The Undertaker**, I must teach my son a lesson, so I am training this man to

become a wrestler, and within a few months, I hope to seek vengeance on both Kane and Undertaker!"

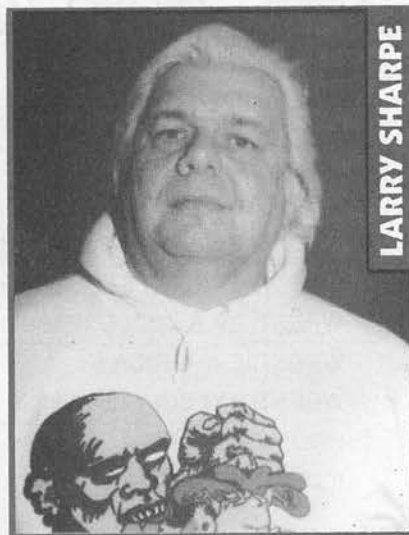
WCW World champion **Bill Goldberg** is being considered for parts in several TV commercials, and both he and **Kevin Nash** will be appearing in an upcoming episode of TV's *The Love Boat*.

Former **Four Horsemen** members **Tully Blanchard** and **Barry Windham** have agreed to team, but they want it known that they're not starting a new Horsemen group on the independent circuit. "As soon as Barry and I announced we were teaming, people began thinking this was the beginning of something," said Blanchard. "It's not. We are just teaming a few times, and that's all there is to it!" They're currently on a mission to unseat NWA tag team champions **The Border Patrol**, who recently beat **The Midnight Express** for the belts ... **Lance Storm** has hired **Dawn Marie** as his "equalizer" to **Tammy Lynn Sytch** (a.k.a. **Sunny**) in his battles with **Chris**



**DAWN MARIE**

**Candido** in ECW. "This woman has no conscience," Storm said. "The next time Tammy Lynn Sytch sticks her nose in one of my matches, Dawn will kick her ample butt!"



**LARRY SHARPE**

**Larry Sharpe**, the owner of the famed **Monster Factory** wrestling school in New Jersey, was recently hospitalized after being diagnosed with leukemia. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments at Philadelphia's **Fox-Chase Cancer Center**. "I have a 50 percent chance of full recovery," Sharpe said. "I beat a lot of opponents in my career, and I'm not going to make this one the exception".

Former ECW Commissioner **Tod Gordon** has so far made good on his guarantee that his group of former ECW wrestlers, who now comprise a stable he calls **Hot Stuff Inc.**, will win every NWA title they pursue. In one weekend in August, his "renegades" won three titles: **Stevie Richards** beat **Doug Gilbert** for the NWA National belt, **911** defeated **Ace Darling** for the light heavyweight title (911 actually weighs 307 pounds, but a blind official supposedly weighed



# KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

him in at 217), and **The Pit Bulls** beat **Steve Corino** and **Lance Diamond** for the U.S. tag team title. "This is just the start of Hot Stuff's domination over the *entire* NWA," Gordon warned.

911 also dropped the Jersey All-Pro Wrestling title to **Don Montoya**.

Sad to hear about the death of former wrestler/talent scout **Terry Garvin** on August 17. Garvin was best remembered for the days he teamed with **Jimmy** and **Ronnie Garvin** in the early-1970s ... ECW broadcaster **Joey Styles** has been named the organization's head of new media. Styles will now be doing a lot more work on ECW's hotline and Web site.

**Dustin Runnels** had a very emotional reunion with his estranged wife at a WSWF card in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in late-August. Runnels was managed by **Johnny Glitter** for the night, and although

told Dustin he had to choose between her and Glitter, and he left the ring with her after the two shared a warm embrace!



ONE MAN GANG

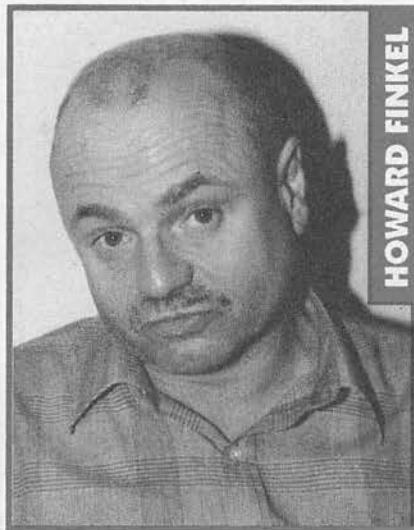
**Mr. Wrestling III** has challenged Mid-South champion **One Man Gang** to wrestle him at an arena of Gang's choice—with no fans present. "So many of our matches end up in the stands," III explained, "and both of us usually get disqualified. Let's take it into the stands now—falls-count-anywhere—and see who comes out with the belt!" Gang has agreed, so now all they have to do is determine a site.

Memphis-based Power Pro Wrestling's **Brandon Baxter** wrote from Florida to tell everyone that he and **Stacy Carter** are "having the vacation of a lifetime down here. Best vacation I ever had. We're thinking of moving down permanently." Only problem here is that Stacy is the girlfriend of **Jerry Lawler**. Of course, Stacy denies this whole thing and says photos of her and Baxter on the beach together are fake. Baxter promises Lawler he will produce the original negatives and a

videotape as well! ... Look for several wrestlers in the WWF's dojo camp, which is run by **Dory Funk Jr.**, **Tom Prichard**, and **Jim Cornette**, to start appearing in Power Pro. The wrestlers include **Shawn Stasiak**, **Erin O'Grady**, and **Vic Grimes**. Grimes and O'Grady are regulars in California's APW.

**Ace Darling** and **Devon Storm** won the vacant Eternity Wrestling Association tag team title by beating **Lupus** and **Slayer**.

WWF ring announcer **Howard Finkel** says he was thrilled when **DeGeneration X** made him an honorary member of the group after he had his hair cut off by **Jeff Jarrett**, one of their arch-enemies.



HOWARD FINKEL

"Not that I had much hair to lose," Finkel says, "but what Jeff Jarrett did to me was inexcusable, and when I got back to the dressing room, **X-Pac**, **Hunter Hearst Helmsley**, and **The New Age Outlaws** offered their help. I was always a fan of theirs, but now my admiration for them has grown considerably."

That's all for now. I'll see you at the matches! □



MARLENA

he defeated **Tito Santana**, he had an argument with Glitter afterward. To the surprise of everyone, **Marlena** appeared and slapped Glitter across the face! Marlena then

**T**HE WWF WANTS to turn SummerSlam into another WrestleMania. Call SummerSlam '98 WrestleMania XIV½. The glitz was there. The rap stars. The sensationalism. An unusual specialty match. More wrestling T-shirts than you could wear in a week. Even two venues: Madison Square Garden's main arena and The Paramount Theater right in the same building.

This much is certain: When it comes to establishing name value and separating its seasons through use of pay-per-views, nobody does it like the WWF.

WCW used to have Starrcade as the king of its supercards, but now Starrcade is generally not much better than any other PPV event on the WCW calendar. What's the difference between Bash at

# ON THE ROAD

With Dave Lenker

the Beach and The Great American Bash? How about Fall Brawl and Halloween Havoc?

Sure, there are far too many pay-per-views, and the top two federations are asking fans to shell out a ton of money to watch them, but at least fans know that WrestleMania is supposed to be special, SummerSlam is supposed to be special, and all of the other PPVs on the WWF calendar are extras. Good, exciting events for the most part, but not on par with WrestleMania and SummerSlam.

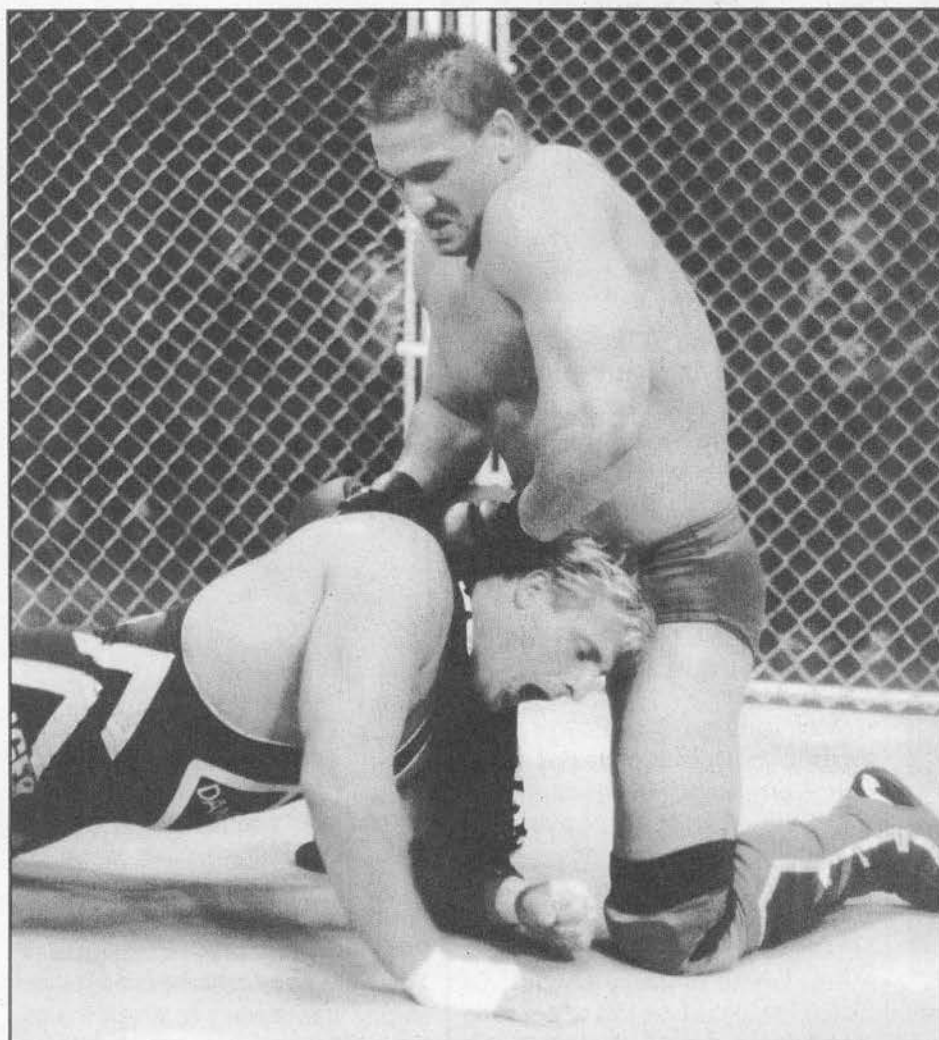
On the other hand, there are some things WCW has done right that the WWF did wrong. For example, the whole NWO thing. Even though the NWO was a much bigger deal when there was one NWO, and it was evil, fans seem attracted to the red and

white vs. red and black feud. The same can't be said for the WWF's De-Generation X vs. The Nation, though that is an interesting and exciting feud. Neither group has ever threatened to take over the WWF.

One more thing that can be said about the big two federations: They're confusing fans by the millions. The whole "Whose side are you on?" question in WCW is getting wearisome. Actually, it was getting wearisome about a year ago. Now it's just plain annoying. The question is repetitive. The answer is always unclear. Whose side are you on? Ask any wrestler today, then be sure to ask him again in two or three weeks. Chances are his answer will have changed.

Kane and Undertaker. Mankind and Kane. Austin and Undertaker. Vince McMahon. It's impossible to say with any certainty what exactly is going on here, other than it's likely all four wrestlers will eventually be

*(Continued on page 54)*



SummerSlam '98 was memorable for, among other reasons, the first "Lion's Dean" match in WWF history. Ken Shamrock beat Owen Hart in that. You know it's a big PPV when one match isn't even held in a standard ring.



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by David Rosenbaum

Is Marsalis as athletic as Eubanks?

Considering Marsalis' stated objection to being subservient to Jay Leno, would he have come to Leno's rescue had he been at Road Wild? For you *Tonight Show* watchers, notice how Eubanks laughs a lot more at Leno's jokes than Marsalis ever did.

Would Marsalis have been willing to learn "Diamond" Dallas Page's "Diamond cutter"? Remember, Marsalis considered himself a "serious musician," and not many serious musicians would be willing to get involved in wrestling.

Would wrestling history have been changed forever if Eubanks never replaced Marsalis?

Forever meaning more than five minutes, of course. In wrestling, forever isn't a very long time.

\*\*\*

This just in: PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER RETIRES BEFORE THE AGE OF 82!

That's right, a professional

wrestler who had a long, successful career actually retired while he was still able to walk. This is remarkable news. About a hundred others should take note. It is okay to walk away from professional wrestling and not come running back.

The man who did the retiring in this case was Rick Martel, a former AWA World champion and top-flight competitor in both WCW and the WWF. He is 42. He can still walk. Earlier this summer, he had injured several vertebrae during a match with Stevie Ray. This happened right after he came back from major knee surgery.

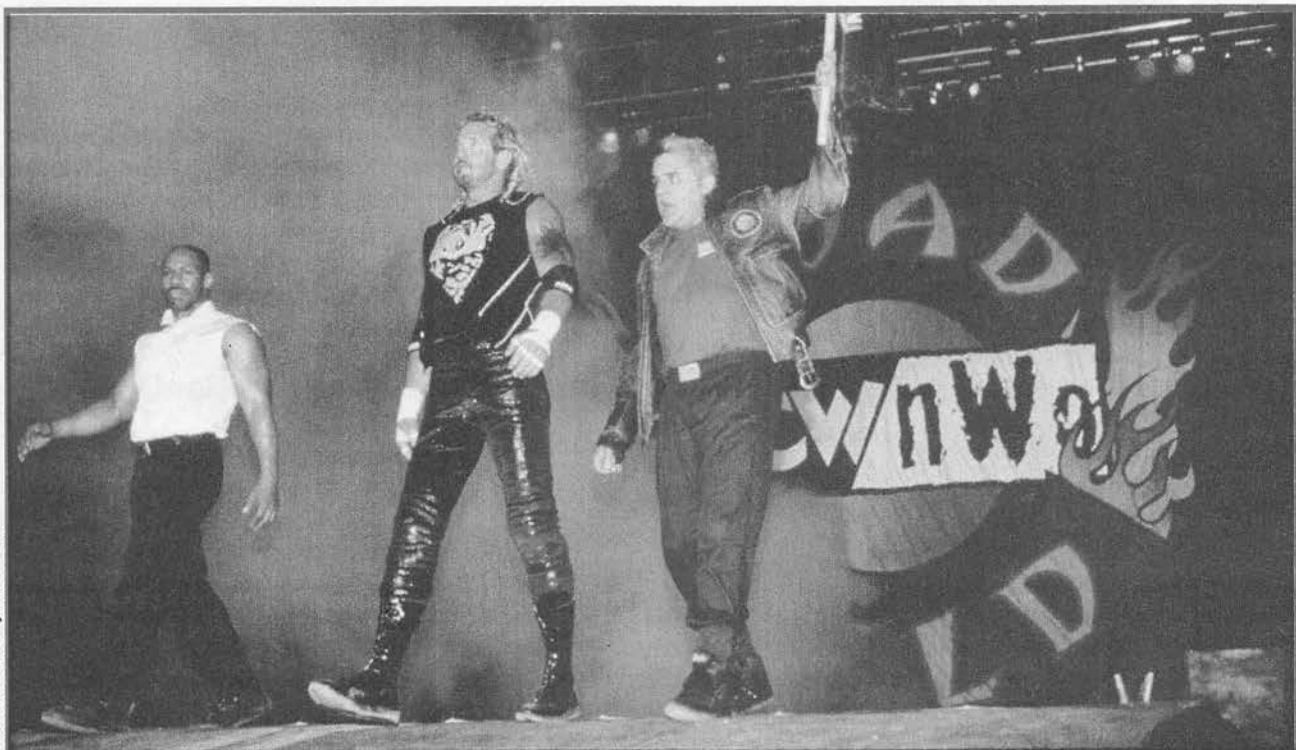
"It would have been ridiculous to keep wrestling and risk further injury," Martel said, sounding not at all like a professional wrestler. "I've accomplished everything I wanted to accomplish in this sport. I've been WWF World tag team champion, AWA World champion, I won a belt in WCW.

(Continued on page 55)

**J**UST ONE QUICK question before I begin with this month's journalistic exercise:

What if Kevin Eubanks hadn't replaced Branford Marsalis as bandleader on *The Tonight Show* a few years ago?

Okay, a few more quick questions:



Kevin Eubanks (left, with "Diamond" Dallas Page and Jay Leno) was instrumental in Page's and Leno's victory over Hollywood Hogan and Eric Bischoff at Road Wild. Would the outcome have been different if former *Tonight Show* bandleader Branford Marsalis was still around?



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# the Insider

by Brandi Mankiewicz

*(The opinions expressed in this column are those of Brandi Mankiewicz alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)*

**W**ELCOME BACK, Undertaker. Three words that I never thought I'd write in any of my columns. The so-called resident of the dark side had spent what seemed like 99 percent of his WWF career defying the very black that was covering his body and was, apparently, in his heart. A little brotherly tough love has brought him around, though.

The Undertaker just got lost along the way. In November 1990, he debuted and began dominating his opposition. He beat numerous veterans and a certain World champion named, uh ... Hulk Hogan, I believe. But the good times with men as bad as The Undertaker was never seem to last. He eventually jumped over the fence and became just another WWF fan favorite. He was hardly a great role model, but broadcasters sung his praises and people everywhere seemed to love the guy.

When he became a hero, he also became a target to every

other fellow freak. Kamala, Mankind, Giant Gonzales, an "Underfaker," and Kane all unleashed their ire on him. The feuds left him spent, and on more than one occasion, he was left for dead. Sure, he won his second WWF title after years of trying to recapture the original magic, but the reign was uneventful, tainted by the soap operatic rants of former manager Paul Bearer.

But no matter how good you try to be, pragmatism will always get in the way. The Undertaker went back to the dark side out of necessity.

The reigning WWF champ chooses not to abide by any regulations. He bullies his way into matches when his credibility or title is at stake. He threatens. He swears. He flips people off. Steve Austin's indignant attitude is a weapon that The Undertaker could not counter on his own. He needed Austin's enemies as his allies.

*(Continued on page 56)*



Now *this* is the kind of picture I like to see: Kane and The Undertaker, side by side, working together. So nice to see 'Taker still has some evil left in him.



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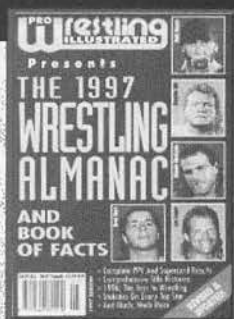
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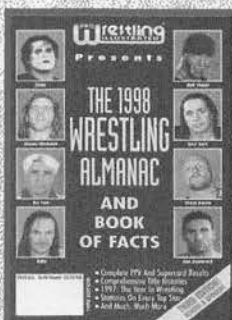
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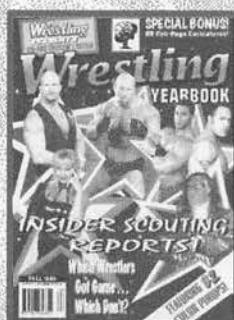
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# ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

**S**HAWN MICHAELS HAS always been one of the most interesting "chameleons" in professional wrestling. When he's good, he's good. When he's bad, he's bad. But sometimes when he's good, he's bad. Then when you think he's bad, you look at him again and realize ... well, you get the picture.

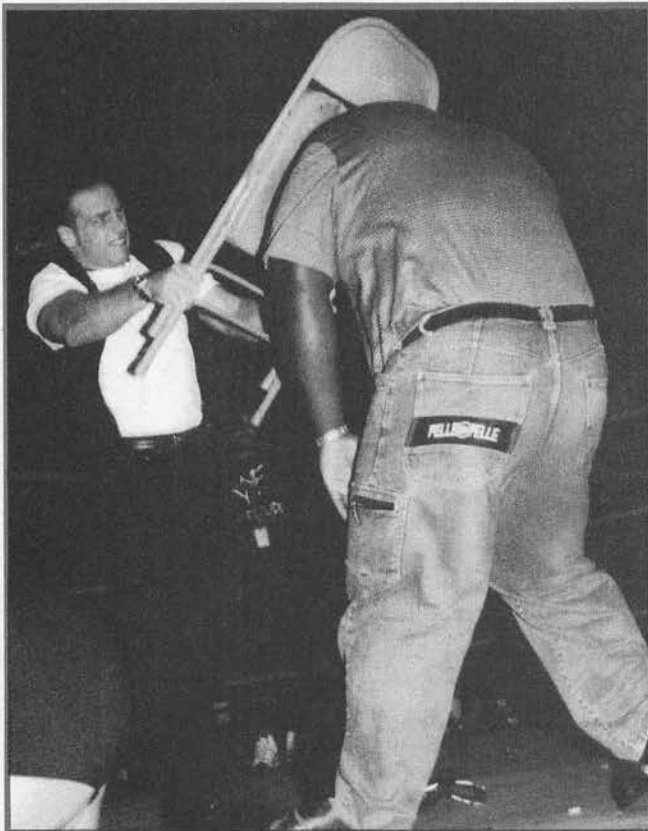
When Michaels returned to the WWF after months of resting his aching back, he stormed into the spotlight and pranced around like the HBK of old. Instead of wrestling boots, he donned headphones. Instead of throwing punches, he threw verbal barbs at his enemies from the safety of the broadcasters' table at ringside. But when an old friend needed help, Michaels once again took on a more hands-on role.

"Hey, look, I was just helping out an old friend," Michaels told reporters after the August 24 *Raw* broadcast. "Chyna and I go way back, and I have no issues with her. The Nation was pretty bold when it was all of them against one woman."

Earlier that night, Chyna was being humiliated by The Nation while the rest of DX was barricaded in a nearby dressing room. "The Rock" was ridiculing and embarrassing Chyna, while Mark Henry was preparing to lay a big wet one on her. Before lips could be locked, Michaels ran out, grabbed a chair, and cleared the ring. He

saved the femme fatale of a group that he founded, a group from which he was excommunicated just five months earlier. The question is this: Did he take the first step toward reuniting with DX, or did he just create more ill will by getting involved in a situation in which he had no business getting involved?

"Bottom line is that she couldn't fight the battle on her own and DX couldn't help her," reflected Michaels.



Shawn Michaels started a whole new controversy in late-August when he smashed Mark Henry with a chair in defense of his old friend Chyna. Where does he stand with DeGeneration X now?

Male wrestlers usually treat their female managers/valets the way small children treat their favorite toys. They simply do not like to share. Michaels' intentions

may have been noble, but that doesn't mean "Triple-H" liked what he saw. Chances are Helmsley will see Michaels as more of a threat than a friend. After all, he deposed HBK as DX leader after *WrestleMania* and had nothing but bad things to say about him when he did it. If Michaels bonds with DX again, logic tells you he'll eventually want to be the leader again.

"I guess Hunter did what he had to do for the sake of DX," continued Michaels. "Whether I agree with it is not the point, but it is an issue we will have to resolve eventually. My helping Chyna had nothing to do with how I feel about 'Triple-H.'"

The current incarnation of DeGeneration X has been in existence for nearly a half-year. That's not bad by today's standards. Eventually, egos and misunderstandings get in the way of the most powerful wrestling groups. If Chyna gets caught in the middle of a power struggle between Helmsley and Michaels, the group is doomed.

X-Pac already has unresolved issues with Chyna after his mini-feud with Helmsley. It was Chyna, after all, who helped "Triple-H" beat X-Pac in a match to determine who would face Rocky Maivia for the Intercontinental belt at *SummerSlam*. If Michaels forms an alliance with Chyna, perhaps X-Pac will side with Hunter. Then

*(Continued on page 57)*



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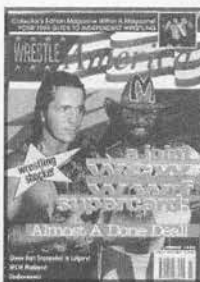
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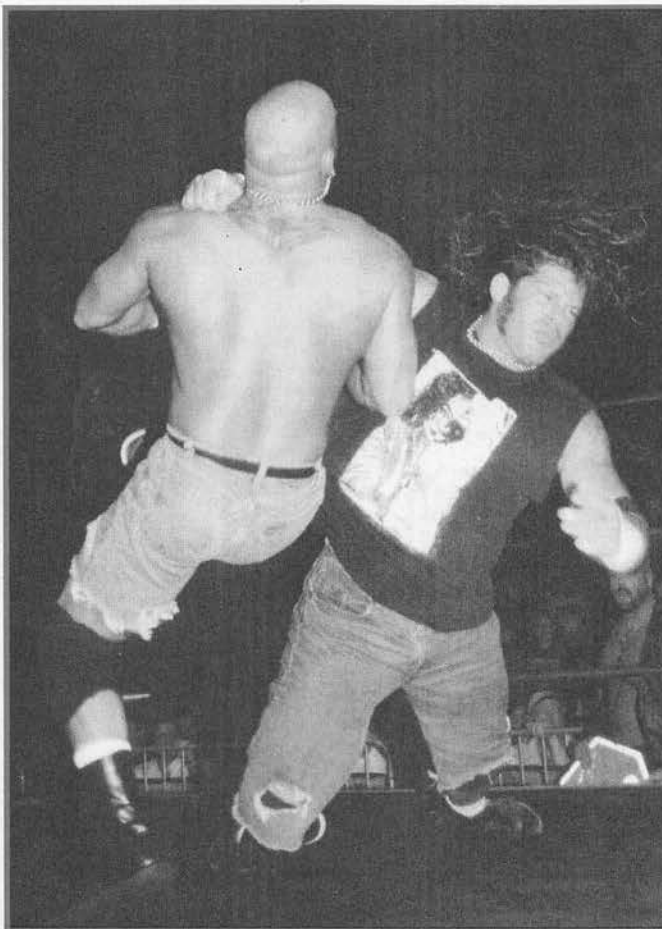
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# INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE <sup>274</sup>

## RAVEN

**R**AVEN IS ALWAYS lamenting his past, but things were not as bleak and barren as he would have fans believe ... Made his pro debut in Portland in February 1988 as Scotty the Body and went on to win the NWA Pacific Northwest heavyweight title three times ... Also captured the tag team title three times and the TV belt once ... Changed his name to Scotty Flamingo, a rich kid from Florida who flaunted his wealth, and wrestled in WCW and the USWA ... Held the WCW light heavyweight title for 15 days in 1992 ... Feuded with the likes of Johnny B. Badd (a.k.a. Marc Mero) and beat him in several boxing matches, although he had to cheat to win (*"He couldn't wrestle or box well"*) ... Later moved on to the WWF, where he became Johnny Polo and shifted his focus from wrestling to managing ... Led The Quebecers to a stunning upset of WWF World tag team champions The Steiners in September 1993 ... Turned up in ECW in 1995 as Raven and twice captured the heavyweight title ... Also captured the tag team title twice with Stevie Richards, one of his

flunkies .... Feuded with The Sandman and even turned his wife, Lori Fullington, and son, Tyler, against him ... Feuded with Tommy Dreamer in a long, grueling series of bloody specialty matches (*"I was the best wrestler to ever pass through*



Raven and Saturn profess to be lifelong friends, though their association is now anything but amicable. Saturn has tried to liberate members of The Flock, but so far he is the only member to have escaped Raven's grip.

*barbed-wire city"*) ... Dreamer eventually managed to lure Raven's valet, Beulah McGillicutty, over to his side ... Showed up in WCW in the summer of 1997, but initially refused to sign a contract ... Eventually signed, but only on the condition

that his matches be contested under "Raven's" rules (meaning no disqualifications) ... Persuaded former ECW wrestlers Perry Saturn and Richards to join his camp ... Later lured Billy Kidman, Scotty Riggs, and Horace Boulder, among others, into his group and called them The Flock (*"They were a bunch of tortured souls until I took them in"*) ... Sent his flunkies to recruit Chris Benoit, who resisted ... Feuded for months with "Diamond" Dallas Page and Benoit ... Beat Page for the U.S. title at Spring Stampede, but lost the belt to Goldberg the next night on *Nitro* ... Was continually attacked by Kanyon (formerly Mortis), whom he had earlier turned away from The Flock, and demanded that WCW Executive Committee Chairman J.J. Dillon provide personal security guards for him ... The attacks didn't stop, though (*"Corporate boy Page would have gotten tighter security"*) ... Challenged for Flock leadership by Saturn, who broke away from the group ... Grumblings from Horace and Riggs have increased, and Raven's dictatorship appears to be crumbling, but he is confident he will not be deserted (*"Saturn is an ingrate, but he'll be back. He needs me. They all need Raven"*). □





**RAVEN**

# Where Are They NOW

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## CARL FERGIE

Another self-proclaimed "King," who, incidentally, is Jerry Lawler's cousin, Fergie has been a jack-of-all-trades in the sport. He started out by helping put up rings, later became a wrestler in Memphis, then moved on to Bill Watts' Mid-South promotion, where

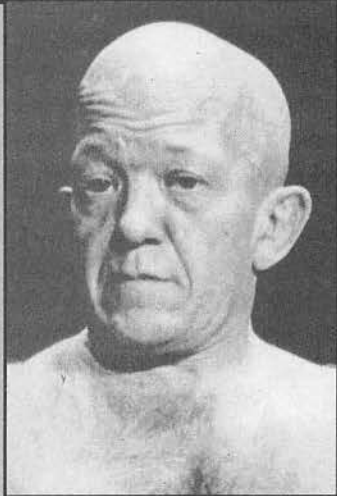
he wrestled and refereed. Fergie is currently working as a referee (and sometimes as wrestler) for Power Pro Wrestling and several other Tennessee independent promotions. He's also the assistant manager of Gold's Gym in Jackson, Tennessee.



## DAVEY O'HANNON

Davey says the reason he never became a heavy-weight champion during his prime in the mid-'70s was "because of my temper." O'Hannon wrestled some of the greatest competitors in the original WWWF but got disqualified much of the time.

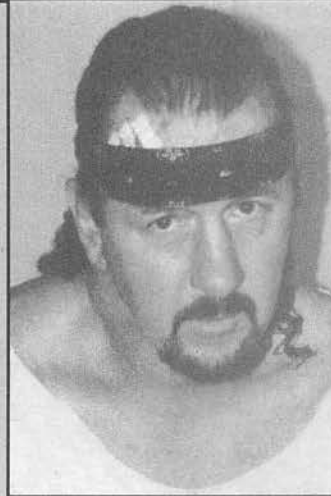
He went on to win several titles in Amarillo before finally retiring in the late-1980s. Now living in New Jersey with his wife, Kathleen, and three children, Davey works in the newspaper business as a union representative in the New York metropolitan area.



## SKY LOW LOW

Probably the most famous midget wrestler ever, Sky boasts that he held the midget title for 30 years and wound up retiring with it. "I had great matches against Little Brutus, Little Beaver, and Frenchy LaMont," he remembers. Today, Sky and his wife, Diane, live in

suburban Montreal, where Sky spends most of his time watching television. "Yeah, I love news shows like *60 Minutes* and *48 Hours*," he says. "I also have a very large collection of old movies that we watch."



## TERRY FUNK

The 54-year-old legend is back at his ranch in Amarillo, Texas, letting his wounds heal, but he is planning to come back again. "Yeah, for maybe about a day or two, I thought about retiring, but I just can't do it," he said. "I don't know

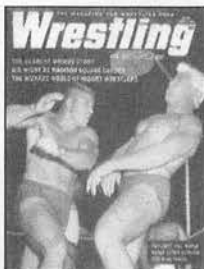
if I want to go back to the WWF right now. I need a change of scenery. I'm talking to some promoters over in Japan, and I've also been in touch with some of my old friends in ECW, so you might see me back there in the very near future."



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**December 1963** The Destroyer, "Maniac" Mark Lewin, Paul Diamond, Ernie Ladd, Judy Grable, Bill Watts, Pat O'Connor, Don Duffy, The Scufflin' Hillbillies, plus a full-color centerfold of Lou Thesz. **\$35**

**February 1964** Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. **\$35**

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**September 1959 Boxing:** Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. **Wrestling:** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. **\$25**

**October 1962 Boxing:** Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! **Wrestling:** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. **\$30**

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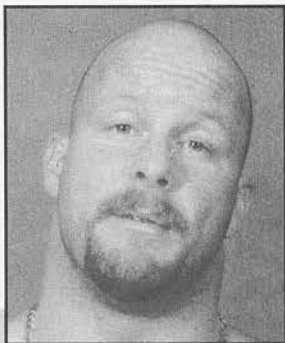
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# NEWS FROM THE

**NEW YORK, NY  
BY MARK HANSEN**



**STEVE AUSTIN  
VS.  
THE UNDERTAKER**



The main event of SummerSlam was as intense as everyone said it'd be. Early on, Undertaker climbed to the top rope and leaped onto Austin, who was lying on a broadcasters' table. Later, after Austin missed with a "Stone-Cold stunner," Taker choke-slammed him, then went for a "tombstone" piledriver, but Austin escaped. When Taker went back to the top rope, Austin hit him with a low blow, then finished him with a "stunner."

**OTHER BOUTS:** WWF European champ D-Lo Brown beat Val Venis by disqualification ... Paulo Silva, Kurrigan, & Golga beat Kaientai ... X-Pac beat Jeff Jarrett in a hair vs. hair match ... Sable & The Edge beat Marc Mero & Jacquelyn ... Ken Shamrock defeated Owen Hart in a "Lion's Den" match ... The New Age Outlaws beat Mankind in a handicap match for the WWF tag team title after Kane failed to appear ... Hunter Hearst Helmsley defeated WWF Intercontinental champ Rocky Maivia for the title in a ladder match.

**FAIRLESS HILLS, PA  
BY RANDY MILLS**



**911  
VS.  
ACE DARLING**



How could 911, a man who stands 6'7" and weighs over of 300 pounds get a shot at the NWA light heavyweight title? It actually wasn't difficult at all. A blind official came out before the match and proclaimed that 911's official weight was 217 pounds, which meant he was considered a light heavyweight. Though everyone in attendance knew this wasn't true, the match was declared a title bout. Ace did his best to try to knock his opponent down, but 911 was just too big and too strong for him. All he needed to put him away was his choke-slam. He won the match by pinfall and thus became the first member of Tod Gordon's crew to win a title in the NWA.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Rik Ratchet defeated Inferno Kid ... Harley Lewis & Lupus defeated Rocco Dorsey & Twiggy Ramirez ... NWA U.S. tag team champions Steve Corino & Lance Diamond beat The Pit Bulls ... NWA National champion Doug Gilbert beat Stevie Richards.

**PROVIDENCE, RI  
BY HAROLD McCANN**



**STING  
VS.  
BRET HART**



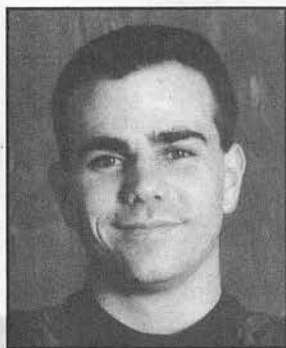
As most of the fans had probably anticipated, when Hart got to the ring he grabbed the microphone and professed his respect for Sting. He even said Sting didn't have to wrestle him. But when Sting came out, he made it clear that he wanted to pound the "Hitman." Bret, however, bailed out of the ring after a few minutes, and The Giant charged into the ring. With Bret watching from ringside, Sting went after the big man, who was for some reason allowed to take his NWO Hollywood ally's place in mid-match. Sting pinned him after executing a top-rope "Scorpion deathdrop" on him. When Bret saw that, he retreated to the dressing room.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Ernest Miller defeated Billy Kidman ... Disco Inferno & Alex Wright beat Public Enemy ... Stevie Ray defeated Steve McMichael by disqualification ... Dean Malenko beat WCW TV champ Chris Jericho in a non-title match ... Dallas Page pinned Scott Hall.



# WRESTLING CAPITALS

**STEELTON, PA**  
BY TIMOTHY A. WALKER



**MIKE QUACKENBUSH  
VS.  
RECKLESS YOUTH**



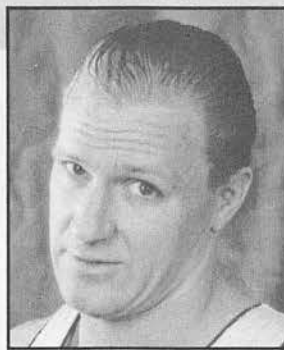
These two long-time rivals again showed why they're two of the most exciting light heavyweights on the East Coast. On many occasions, Reckless tried a move, saw Quackenbush reverse it, then reversed it again himself. They treated fans at this IPW card to spinning heel kicks, karate kicks, spectacular dives, and many other great high-risk moves. At one point, though, Youth untied one of the turnbuckle pads and exposed the metal part. Later, after Quackenbush missed on a top-rope dive, Reckless whipped him into that turnbuckle. Quackenbush was so stunned by the impact that Youth was able to pin him.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Tito Santana pinned Lou Marconi ... IPW heavyweight champ Tom Brandi defeated Julio Sanchez ... Johnny Graham pinned Rob Noxious ... Dana Hinkle defeated Don Montoya ... Paul Mitchell & Don Rock defeated Larry Brown & Jake Daniels ... Lou Marconi pinned Mark Mest.

**ROSEMONT, IL**  
BY RICHARD KRANE



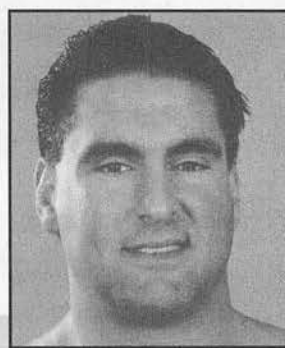
**X-PAC  
VS.  
JEFF JARRETT**



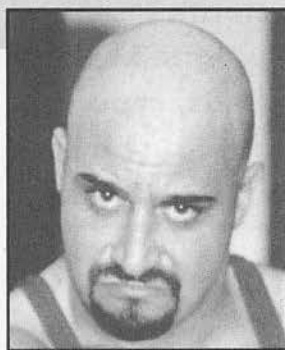
"Double-J" wasn't looking to get cheered by the crowd at the Rosemont Horizon, as he had some derogatory things to say about the fans before the bout started. As soon as X-Pac hit the ring, the fast-paced contest started. Jarrett kept his rival down on the mat for most of the match, but X-Pac did deliver a few nice spinning kicks. The end came when Jarrett tried a rollup pin, and X-Pac smartly reversed it into his own pinfall.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Faarooq pinned Scott Taylor ... Tiger Ali Singh pinned Dustin Runnels ... Val Venis pinned Marc Mero ... Sable beat Jacquelyn in an arm-wrestling match ... Ken Shamrock defeated Owen Hart ... Vader beat Mark Henry ... Hunter Hearst Helmsley beat WWF Intercontinental champ Rocky Maivia by disqualification ... Billy Gunn & Jesse James beat D-Lo Brown & Rocky Maivia ... Skull & Eight-Ball beat LOD 2000 ... WWF World champ Steve Austin beat The Undertaker and Kane in a triple threat match.

**CHINCOTEAGUE, VA**  
BY THOMAS J. MARONE

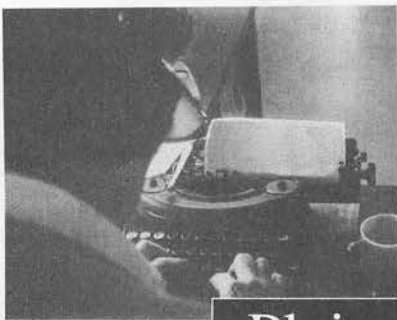


**TOM BRANDI  
VS.  
JIMMY CICERO**



Brandi must have felt like he was in a handicap match on this IPWA card, because in addition to dealing with Cicero, he had to keep an eye on Cicero's friend Cueball Carmichael and Vinny Gambini, his manager. On many occasions, Cicero would distract the referee so Gambini and Carmichael could attack Brandi. As the match went on, the two combatants traded vicious chops, armdrags, chinlocks, hip-tosses, and an assortment of other holds and moves. Though both got many near-falls, it was Brandi who finally got the pin with a rollup.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Julio Sanchez pinned Joey Matthews to earn a shot at the IPWA light heavyweight belt ... Big Slam pinned Adam Flash ... Dan Rage defeated R.J. Carrington ... Julio Sanchez pinned Christian York for the IPWA light heavyweight title ... IPWA women's champion Brandi Wine beat Foxy Lady ... King Kong Bundy pinned Cueball Carmichael.



## Matt Brock's **Plain Speaking**

**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**

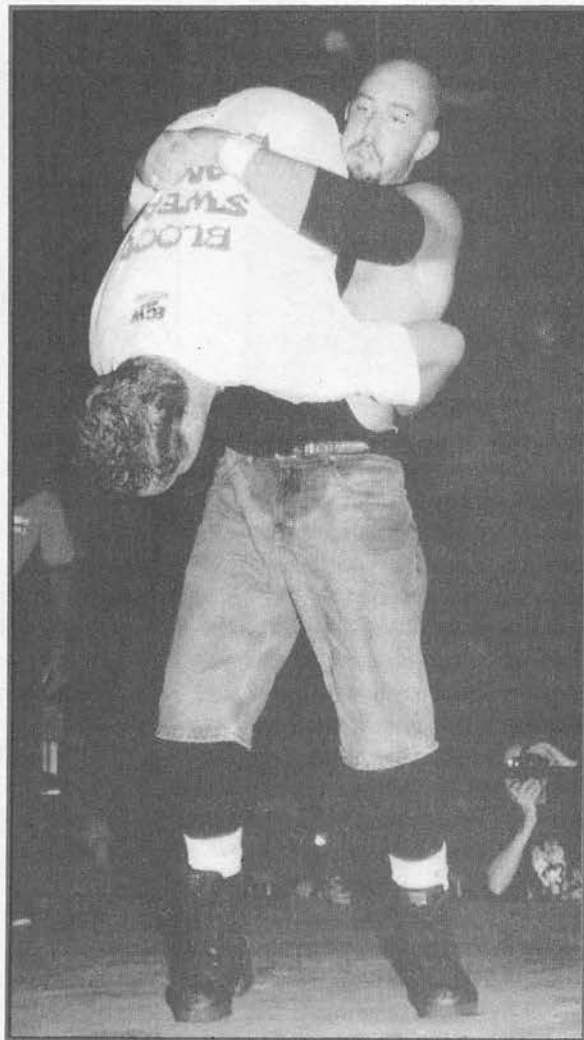
**Y**ou can tell Jerry Lawler is getting sick and tired of Billy Travis and Randy Hales, which is why their feud in Power Pro Wrestling should be coming to an end any day now, possibly by the time you read this. Lawler told me a few days before the card here that he was getting bored with this feud, and then he went out

and beat both of them on the same card. "I'm used to world-class competition, not clowns," Lawler said. "I take care of clowns. I send them away. Travis and Hales are trying to run me out of Memphis. They've gotta be a couple of clowns to drive away their biggest drawing card." Interesting thing about Lawler: He's managed to separate his wrestling Memphis life from his broadcasting WWF life. You'll never hear him talking about Hales and Travis on WWF broadcasts, which means two things: He realizes not many WWF fans care about that feud, and he also realizes he shouldn't give Hales and Travis any publicity they don't deserve. Meanwhile, Lawler has turned into a clown prince of wrestling broadcasting with his commentary, but that's a story for another day. Lawler has always seen himself as part wrestler, part entertainer, and never has the difference been clearer.

**MEMPHIS, TN**

**T**his kid Justin Credible's got a lot of guts. He and his manager, Jason, lost a handicap match to The Sandman here, but that was the first time in about six tries that Sandman came out on top against Credible. Never thought much of the guy when he was P.J. Walker or Aldo Montoya, and he shouldn't need help from Jason, Chastity, and Nicole Bass all the time, but when he's in the middle of that ring wrestling, he can do some pretty darn good things. The Sandman knows it, though he won't admit it. Shane Douglas and Rob Van Dam better watch out for this kid.

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**

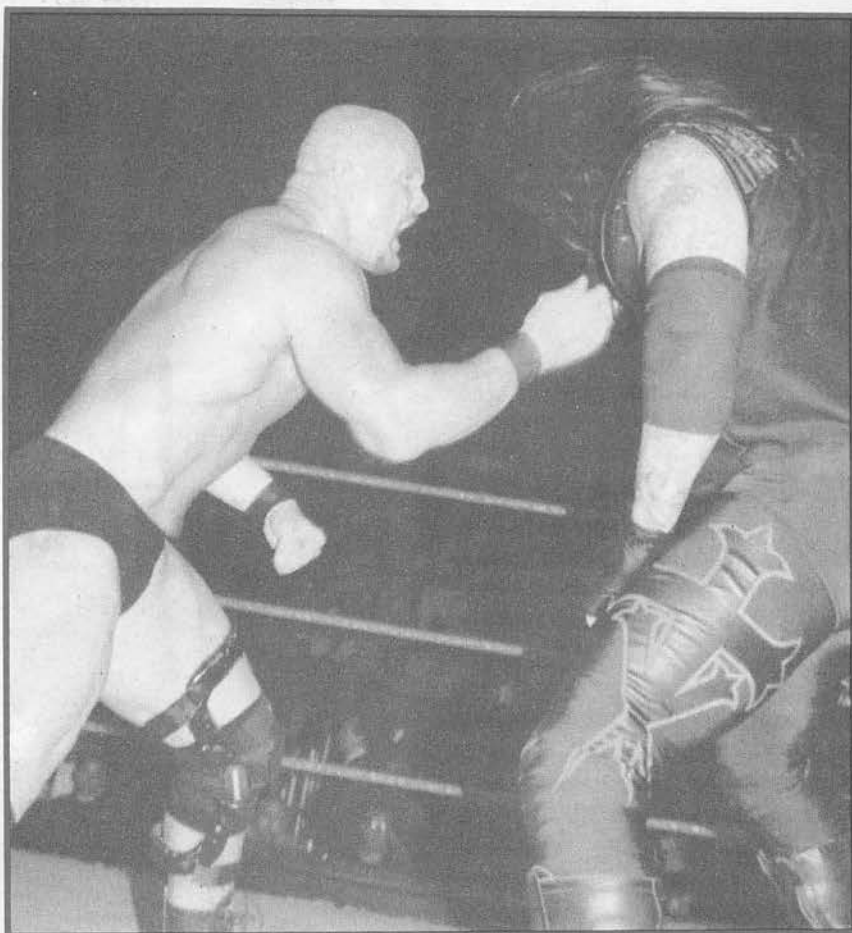


**CREDIBLE vs. SANDMAN**



**R**an into an old acquaintance here who turned out to be as caught up as anyone in Mark McGwire's chase for the home run record. Asked me whether there was any record in wrestling comparable to Roger Maris' 61 home runs in a season, and I suggested he find other things to think about and other ways to spend his time rather than comparing two sports that have nothing to do with each other. Apples and oranges, as the saying goes. "Bruno's seven-plus years as WWF World champion?" he begged. "No," I told him. "Hulk Hogan's winning streak in the mid-1980s?" he tried. "How long was it?" I asked, knowing there was no answer. Hogan's so-called winning streak included losses by disqualification and several countouts. The strangest thing about the wrestling-baseball comparison is that although plenty of basketball and football players have tried their hand in the ring, two of the most successful crossover wrestlers of the past 30 years were former baseball players: Randy Savage and Dusty Rhodes. Hard to say what might happen if a big man like Kevin Nash stepped into the batter's box. Impossible to say, really, because we don't know much about his hand-eye coordination, although if he ever got hold of a 90-mile-per-hour fastball, it would go a long way. Strange thing about baseball and wrestling is that baseball is a team sport in which individual records are kept, while wrestling is an individual sport in which records of that kind simply aren't kept (except in the case of Bill Goldberg, who just happened to spend a few minutes with McGwire before a Cardinals-Marlins game in Florida in August). Sure, there are record books full of title change information, but that's usually about it. Wrestling's story can't be told by the record books. You can either be there or read about it. The numbers won't tell you enough.

**ST. LOUIS, MO**



**AUSTIN vs. UNDERTAKER**

**T**alk about having to be there, SummerSlam '98 wasn't the same card on TV as it was at Madison Square Garden. Dave Rosenbaum, who didn't make it up to the show from Florida, said the Garden didn't sound that loud on TV. "Of course, the Garden never sounds loud on TV," Rosenbaum pointed out. "Ever watch a hockey or basketball game from the Garden? These are the loudest fans in the world, but on TV, they don't sound like anything. Maybe it's because the Garden is so big. It just swallows up the noise." Lots of noise at the Garden for SummerSlam, especially when Austin and The Undertaker battled into the seats. Talk about guts. It's one thing to battle into the stands in other places, but when you do it in New York, you're taking your life into your own hands. Austin

**NEW YORK, NY**

got the worst of that exchange, and just about every exchange afterward, but when all was said and done, he proved once again he's a worthy WWF World champion. Maybe the best the WWF has had in a long time. Meanwhile, Chyna helped Hunter Hearst Helmsley win the Intercontinental belt, and Mankind again proved that he's just about the craziest guy to ever set foot in the ring. There's a thin line between being brave and being foolish, and Mankind crossed that line to the wrong side at SummerSlam. There's a man who won't take no for an answer, but it's going to end up being his doom. Mankind could've just handed his WWF tag team belt to The New Age Outlaws. Instead, he got beaten to a pulp, then was pummeled with a sledgehammer by Kane, the guy who was supposed to be his partner. Hey, the guy just loves his sport, so don't feel sorry for him. □

# THE DAY RUIINED

***Still  
Haunted  
By  
His  
Victory  
Over  
Austin***

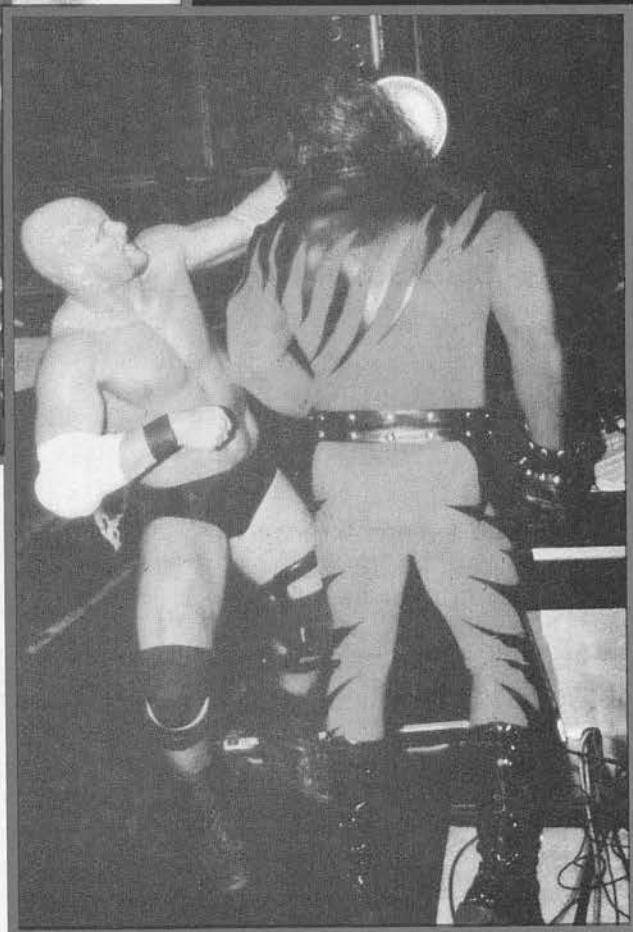
Bill Apter had to work quickly to take this photo: Kane only had the WWF World championship for a day!



# OF GLORY THAT KANE'S LIFE!



Kane's victory over Steve Austin for the WWF World title (left and below) was glorious for him, but the glory was short-lived.



Kane had worked so hard to win the WWF World title, but in the blink of an eye, it was gone. What went wrong? He was the champion who didn't know how to be a champion

By Bryan Ethier

**T**HE 50-CENT question this Monday night is this: Who's dressed in Kane's fire-and-coal wrestling tights and mask?

Because oddly enough, one

cannot simply assume that Kane will always enter the ring dressed as Kane ... or that the man entering the ring dressed as Kane is, in fact, Kane.

Yes, it is all a bit confusing.

WWF fans have witnessed, on separate occasions, Kane's older half-brother, The Undertaker, appear in Kane's outfit. The initial



Some are saying that for Kane to reclaim his career—and his personal dignity and worth—he needs to escape the clutches of Mankind and Paul Bearer, his two closest allies during most of the summer.

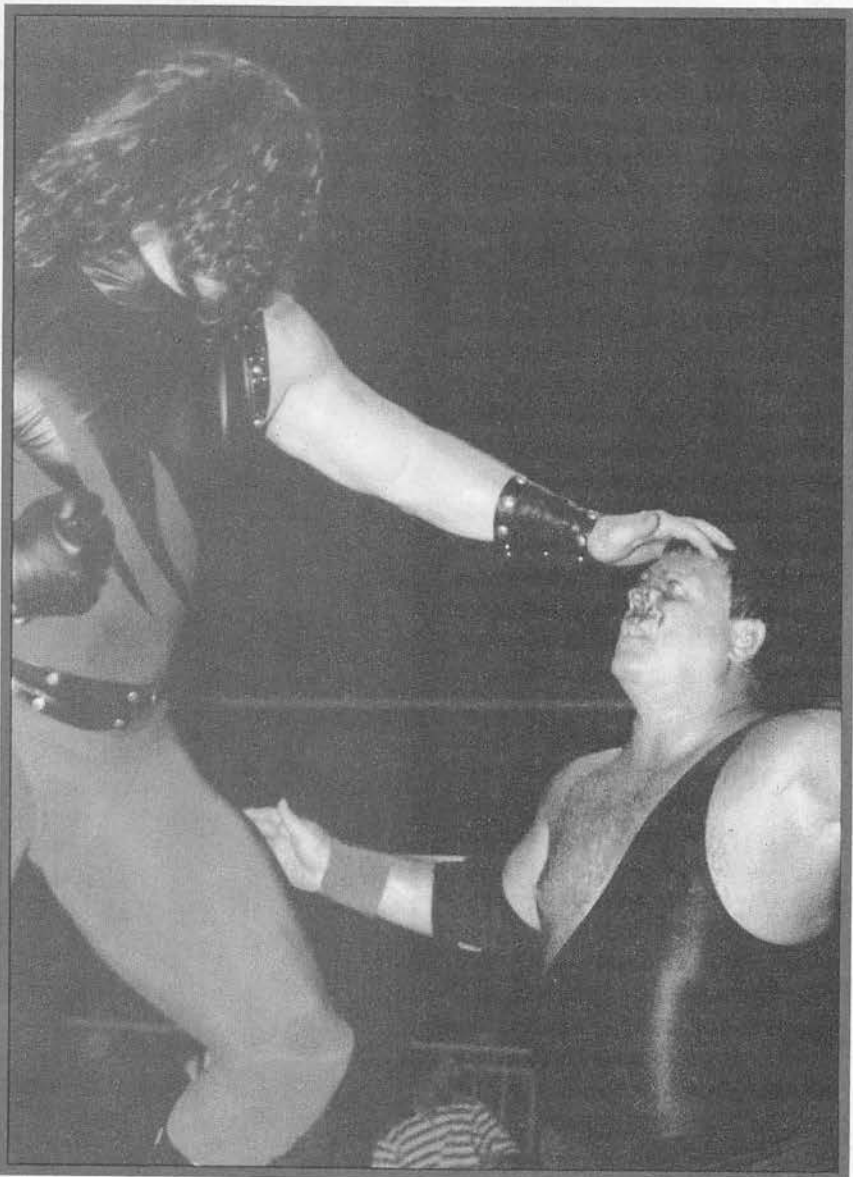
were all of these things, wouldn't you hide behind a mask?"

Indeed, Kane is a fragile personality in search of himself, thus his choice to wrestle behind his plastic veil. Consider his road into the WWF on Paul Bearer's coat-tails, amidst a firestorm of controversy. Undertaker a brother? Then came the rumors: Undertaker had accidentally started a terrible fire that had claimed the

switch came the night Kane, Undertaker, and Mankind were scheduled to face off in a battle for a shot at Steve Austin's World title. When only Mankind and "Kane" appeared for the match, people wondered whether Undertaker had stepped out to give his half-brother a better chance to win. Of course, by the time the chicanery had concluded, it was Undertaker, not Kane, who doffed the mask.

This sleight of hand underscored the confused nature and identity of Paul Bearer's son. Who is the man behind the mask, the super creature whose soul awakens with a moan whenever the sirens blare, bombs explode, and fire burns near his super-sensitive skin?

"I don't think even Kane knows who he is," explained Jim Ross. "He has been a flash-in-the pan champion, he has been an up-start, he has been revealed to be the brother of The Undertaker and the son of Paul Bearer. He has been called the dumbest champion in the history of the WWF by Vince McMahon. If you



If Kane (battling Jerry Lawler) is able to regain the WWF World title, he could shake the label of "fluke" that is starting to dog him.



Kane has the ability to be champion again; he displays it in bouts against formidable foes like Vader. Now he just needs the proper attitude and the proper guidance.

lives of his family, including Kane. But as the world soon learned, Kane had survived.

He has survived his own "death," as well as encounters with warriors such as Steve Austin and, of course, his half-brother. He has done so, in large part, because of the nefarious and underhanded support he has enjoyed from Bearer. They comprise one of the most devilish duos in the sport's history.

"Look who he has for role models," noted Ross. "You wonder why Kane has no clue whether he is a winner, or a loser, or whether he should ally with his brother? His life is a shambles!"

Never more so than after he relinquished his one-day hold on the WWF World title. WWF fans may remember that Kane beat Austin thanks in large part to Undertaker's interference (he slugged Austin with a chair, blood-ying the champ and thus giving Kane the win in that first-blood match at King of the Ring). But after accomplishing what wrestling mavens had deemed impossible, Kane shockingly allowed Austin a rematch before his name could be logged in the record books as champ. Austin, having learned his lesson at King of the Ring, exposed Kane's weaknesses, and, without Undertaker there to inter-vene, regained his crown.

What followed was McMahon's public censure of Kane, whom he called a worthy opponent but a dumb champion. McMahon then went to work brainwashing Kane to make sure he would continue to side with him in his war with "Stone-Cold." Kane, ever dutiful, listened attentively, and has since been a thorn in Austin's side.



Kane's problem, though, is that since his loss, he has been willing to listen to anyone in his feeble efforts to regain a foothold atop the WWF ladder. Mostly he has listened to his brother. And he has listened to Bearer. Now he and Undertaker are conspiring against Austin ... and McMahon. He has also listened to Mick Foley, who is virtually a puppet of McMahon, willing to risk limb and life for his boss.

"Psychologically, the worst thing Kane could have ever done was win that WWF title for one day," asserted Jerry Lawler, who recently battled him on a Power Pro Wrestling card in Memphis. "All Kane has heard since is the ridicule from the other guys in the locker room. Everyone recognizes Kane was never really a champion; but he's a hard worker and one of the meanest guys I know. He just has no clue how to go about things."

Insiders consider Kane a man of immense physical prowess, but also of limited mental stability.

"He needs a good corner man, an Angelo Dundee type who will massage his ego and nurture his mind," said a federation executive, speaking under terms of

anonymity. "It takes time to develop into a savvy WWF wrestler. Look at the best: Undertaker, Steve Austin, Shawn Michaels. They're all smart tacticians as well as gifted technicians."

So what can Kane do to reverse this downward spiral of success? Some say his first move would be to step away from Paul Bearer. Kane should then take a respite from the sport, clear his head, and take his phone off the hook.

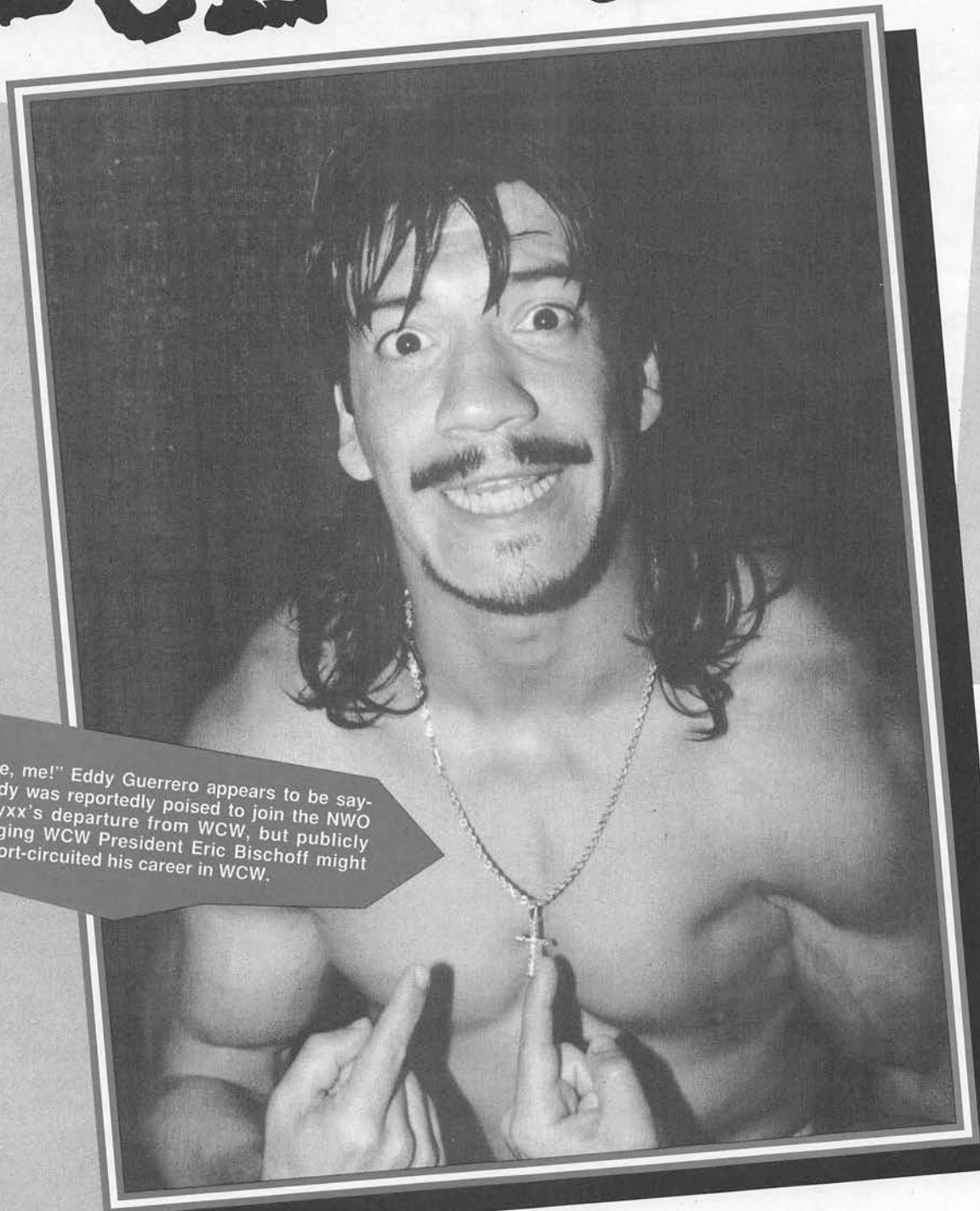
No communication, not even with Undertaker.

"Solitude has a way of clearing out the cobwebs," said Ross. "Look how many breaks Undertaker has taken over his career. Each time he returns to the ring, he is lucid, motivated, and refreshed. He has purged all the voices in his head. And right now, I'm willing to bet Kane has many voices shouting in his head, telling him what to do and when to do it. As long as he continues to listen, he will always be one 'tombstone' piledriver shy of a championship."

And until Kane can regain that championship decisively, and hold it for longer than a day, he will forever be considered a fluke.

And that will forever grate on his twisted nerves. □

# EDDY GUERRERO:

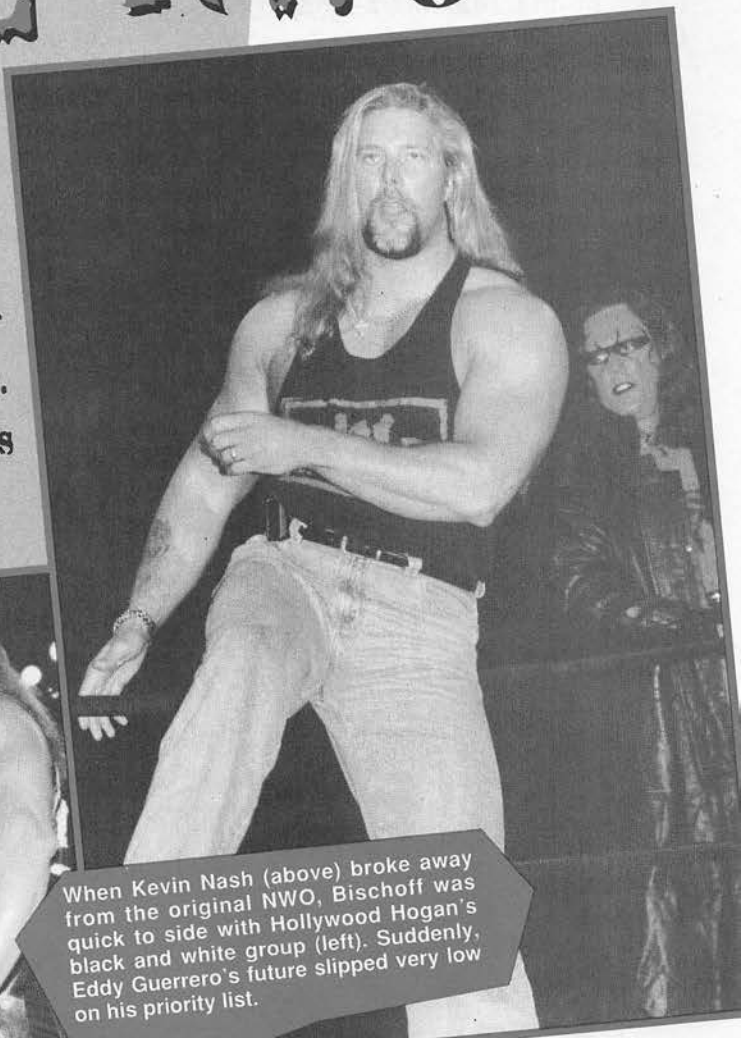


"Me, me, me!" Eddy Guerrero appears to be saying. Eddy was reportedly poised to join the NWO after Syxx's departure from WCW, but publicly challenging WCW President Eric Bischoff might have short-circuited his career in WCW.

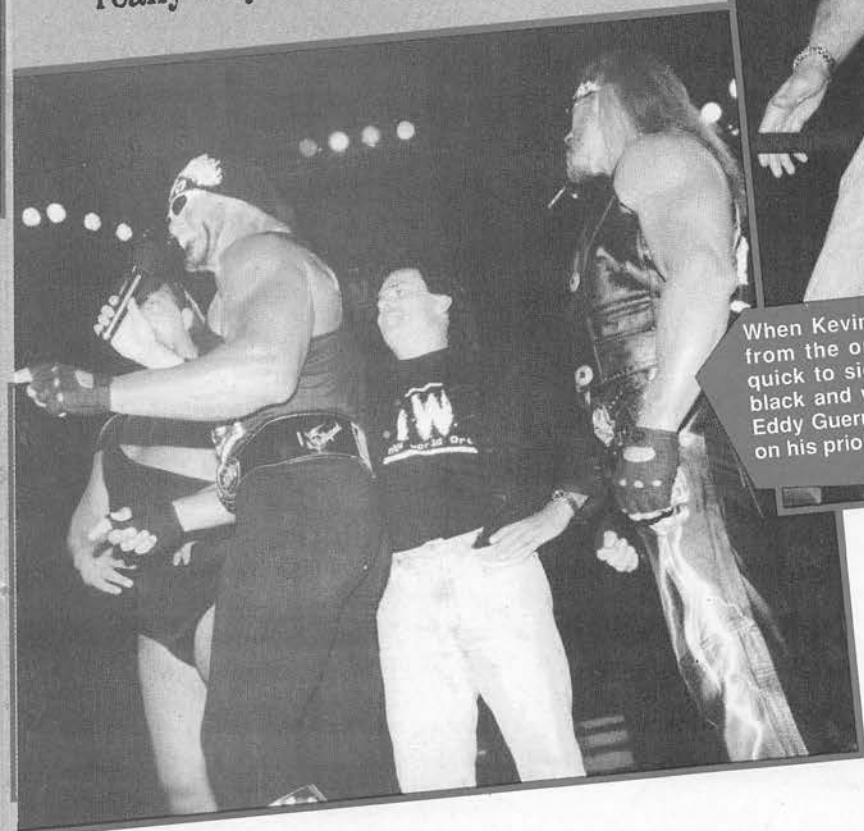


# DEEP-SYXXED BY THE NWO

When Eric Bischoff liberated Syxx from his WCW contract, the NWO sought to fill the void with another cruiserweight—someone with attitude. Someone like Eddy Guerrero. But it never happened. Maybe that's really why Eddy's so steamed!



When Kevin Nash (above) broke away from the original NWO, Bischoff was quick to side with Hollywood Hogan's black and white group (left). Suddenly, Eddy Guerrero's future slipped very low on his priority list.



**By Michael Culpepper**

**E**DDY GUERRERO WIPED the coffee from his face, grabbed his bags, and stormed out of the arena.

"Obviously, it's just personal issues," said Mike Tenay, "but they've just become public."

Ever since Guerrero attempted to declare his independence in a tirade against Eric Bischoff on *Nitro*, insiders have tried to speculate on the true source of his frustration. Internet newsboards posted theories. Hotlines detailed contract negotiations, but throughout the ordeal, Guerrero has refused to get into specifics.

One man close to the WCW Executive Committee, however, is now ready to dispel rumors with news of the real buzz-killer: DeGeneration X.

Well, sort of.

"Bischoff knew that when he sent Syxx packing, he would have plenty of guys waiting in line to fill the role. Eddy was, without a doubt, at the front of the line," said

the source, who asked to remain anonymous. "Bischoff gave Eddy a verbal commitment. I know, because the next day, Eddy told a few people. He was almost giddy."

Guerrero prepared himself immediately for the new role as NWO cruiserweight. With a "Cheat To Win" T-shirt and a macho swagger, Guerrero assumed Syxx's arrogant demeanor with zeal. As the dust began to settle on the controversial firing, the NWO member-in-waiting grew eager to receive the promotion of his wrestling career.

"But Bischoff kind of stalled on the idea," the source continued. "Right around the same time, the big split started. You know, that's when the NWO began to fall apart.

Bischoff did everything he could to keep the group together. He needed to help Hogan in his war with Kevin Nash. Eddy wasn't a top priority. He postponed meetings. Before long, he was concentrating on all of the Malone and Rodman and Leno hype. I guess Eddy finally got fed up with it, and why not? He has a family to feed."

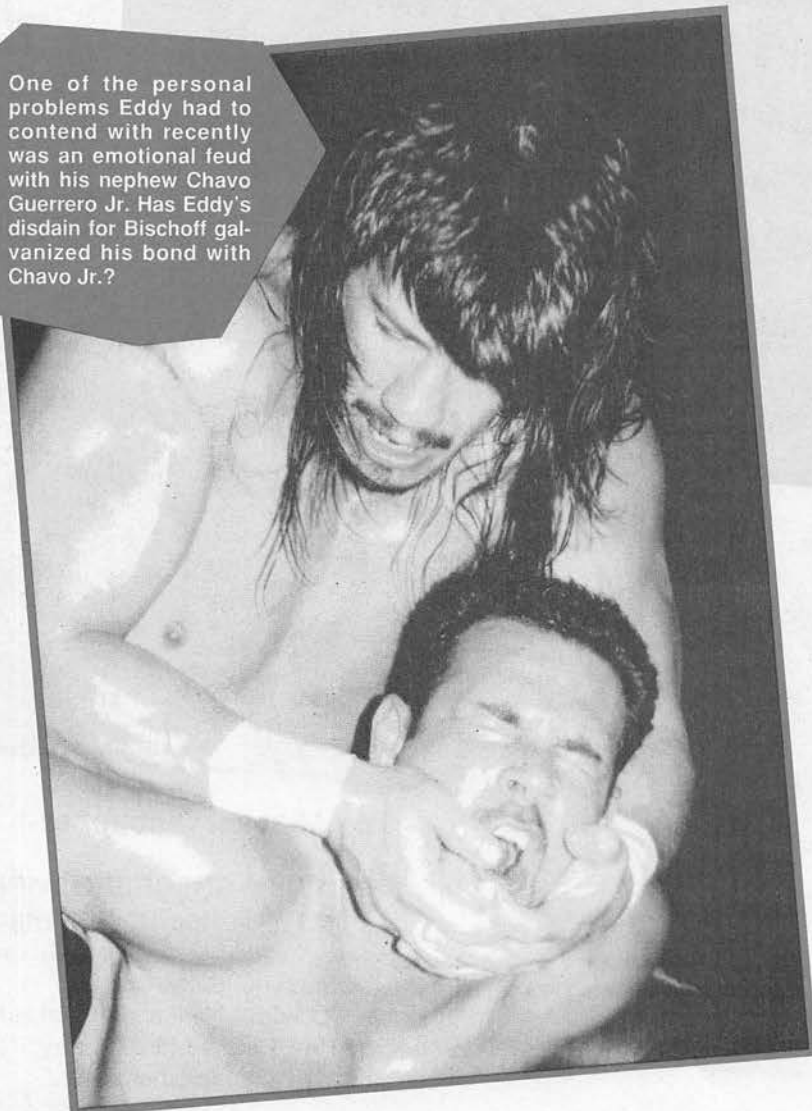
So Eddy watched as the most significant promotion of his career faded from reality to afterthought. He scheduled several meetings with Bischoff that were either blown off or rescheduled ... and then rescheduled again. At one point, Bischoff, having grown so tired of Eddy's requests for a meeting, reportedly ejected Guerrero from his office. That's when Eddy took his gripe to the airwaves.

"Do I have your attention now, Eric?" Eddy barked during the unscheduled soliloquy. "I can't get it in the back. I try to go in there and talk to you about business, and I get screamed at and kicked out. But if this is what I have to do to get attention, it's what I'll do. Fire me, do whatever. I could give a you-know-what." He then threw coffee into his own face, symbolically "saving Bischoff the time."

The *Nitro* incident marked the nadir of Guerrero's recent woes. After the squabbles with Bischoff and what Guerrero himself called "personal problems," the former U.S. and cruiserweight champion declared his intent to leave WCW. Guerrero has since refused to wrestle opponents. Grabbing the microphone after a recent "match" with NWO Hollywood's Brian Adams (he offered Adams no resistance during the bout and was pinned), Guerrero continued his tirade, only to have his microphone cut off in mid-speech. Insiders have speculated that the WCW president pulled the plug.

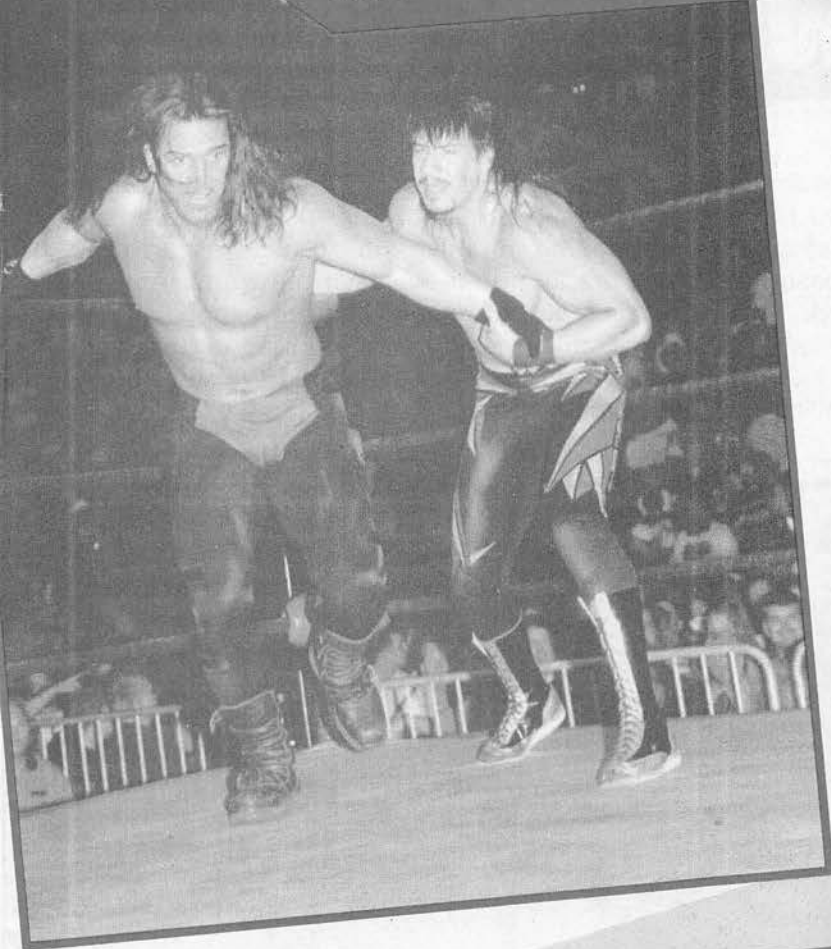
"You can tell Eric has been incensed from the day Guerrero made it public," the source said. "He doesn't want him talking. It's

One of the personal problems Eddy had to contend with recently was an emotional feud with his nephew Chavo Guerrero Jr. Has Eddy's disdain for Bischoff galvanized his bond with Chavo Jr.?





Many people feel Eddy should be involved in title matches every week, not mid-card matches against men like Scott Putski. Eddy believes Bischoff has gone out of his way to bury him.



... all just to spite Bischoff?

So we have ourselves a stalemate. Bischoff doesn't want to be the first one to give in ... and provide Guerrero with what he wants. If he did, not only would he look weak, but he would in all likelihood strengthen the talent roster of another organization. After all, if he fired Guerrero, Eddy would be free to shop his services to either the WWF or ECW.

Remember, just a few weeks after Bischoff fired Syxx, he was back in the WWF as a member of the ultrapopular DX. If Guerrero were to ever go to the WWF, perhaps DX would welcome him into the fold as well.

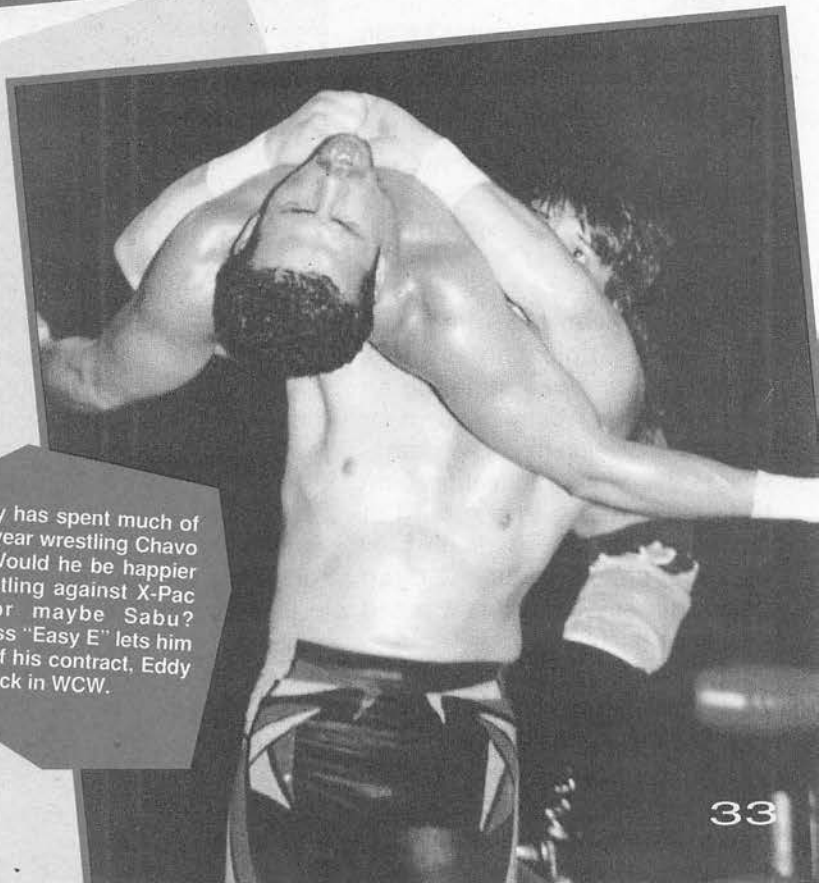
But until Bischoff and Guerrero reach some sort of agreement (assuming that ever happens), they will continue to butt heads. Perhaps in the long run, a parting of ways would be in the best interest of both parties.

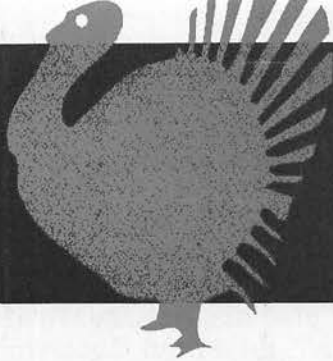
But just think: This whole mess probably could have been avoided if two men learned to communicate a little more effectively. □

that simple. If Eric doesn't want you to talk, you're not going to talk, at least not on a WCW program. But on the other hand, he obviously doesn't want to lose Guerrero. Otherwise, he would have fired him."

Guerrero would certainly love to be fired. He's practically begging to be fired. One of the T-shirts he wears regularly now says as much. On the Labor Day edition of *Nitro*, he announced that he had a back injury and said he had been advised by his doctor to not wrestle until after he had an MRI to determine the extent of the damage. If he really does have a back injury, and it does eventually heal, who's to say he won't allow more opponents to pin him with no effort

Eddy has spent much of the year wrestling Chavo Jr. Would he be happier wrestling against X-Pac ... or maybe Sabu? Unless "Easy E" lets him out of his contract, Eddy is stuck in WCW.





# PRESENTING THE 1998

**V**OTING FOR THIS year's *PWI* Achievement Awards is already underway. You have some tough choices to make in 11 key categories. But if we asked you to help us choose the winners of our "Turnbuckle Turkey Awards," we doubt that you would have to think very long to come up with 10 names.

Let's face facts: A lot of people in wrestling do

horrible and stupid things. When we sat down to come up with our list of "winners," we had a hard time limiting ourselves to 10. So we narrowed down the list to the worst of the worst. And we didn't just select people who are unpopular with the majority of fans. But if you read our explanations, we think you'll see that we have some pretty good arguments.

## SHANE DOUGLAS: HE WON'T DO THE RIGHT THING!

Hey, did you see Shane Douglas at ECW's Heatwave pay-per-view in August?

Yeah, we saw him. Pretty impressive. The ECW heavy-weight champion was right there, putting himself on the line ... by providing color commentary for the card.

Unfortunately, he couldn't even get that right. Douglas blew his cool and walked out on blow-by-blow man Joey Styles during the Taz-Bam Bam Bigelow match. Finishing what he starts apparently isn't Douglas' strong suit these days. Neither is doing the right thing.

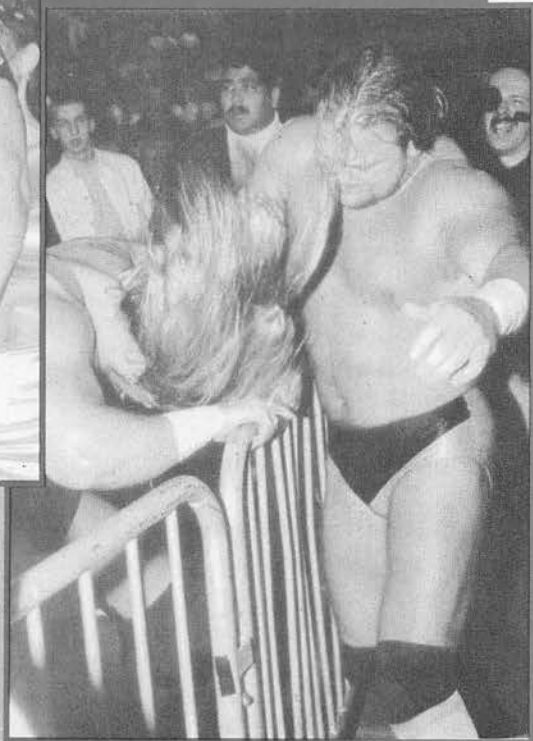
Douglas, who has effectively turned The Triple Threat into a double-scoop since suffering an elbow injury, is worthy of scorn for refusing to give up the ECW heavy-weight title while recovering from the elbow injury. In a record of championship inactivity that would make even Hollywood Hogan green with envy, Douglas wrestled only once during a four-month period that started with his appearance at *Wrestlepalooza* on May 3. And that was in a tag team match.



Certainly, those turkeys in ECW are somewhat to blame for allowing Douglas to keep the belt. Still, shouldn't Douglas have some pride in the title he worked so hard to win? Doesn't he realize that he is wearing a belt that is suddenly meaningless? His behavior is shameful. He's not expected to be back until November.

"I'm not running a charity service," Douglas snapped when we confronted him with these

Shane Douglas is still recognized as ECW champ (left), but because of injury, he hasn't defended the belt since May, when he beat Al Snow (below). If he truly cared about ECW, he'd give it up.



charges. "If they don't want me to give the belt back, why should I give it back on my own?"

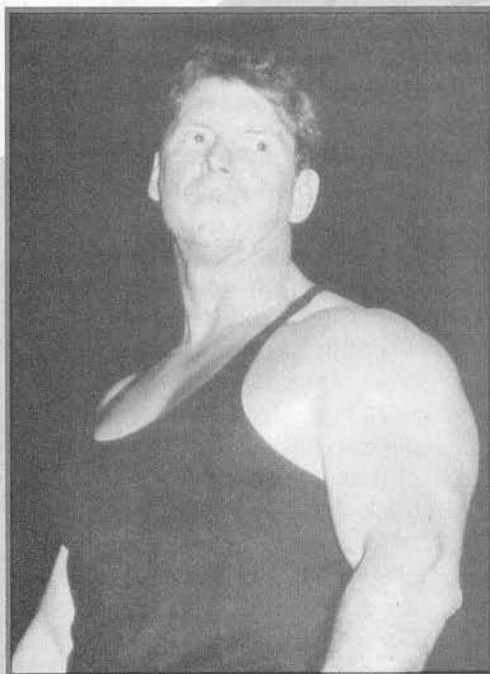
There's only one answer to that question: because it's the right thing to do.



# TURNBUCKLE TURKEY AWARDS

## VINCE McMAHON: HAS HE NO INTEGRITY?

Vince McMahon is one of the most powerful men in wrestling, arguably *the* most powerful man in wrestling. McMahon not only owns the WWF, he actively runs it and plays a part in its presentation.



So how come the most powerful man in wrestling has been emasculated by one of his own employees?

That's really what it comes down to in the McMahon vs. Steve Austin feud. McMahon hates Austin. He came out and said that Austin doesn't project the image he wants in a WWF World champion. Austin drinks beer on TV, curses, makes obscene gestures at officials, opponents, and McMahon

himself, and generally does whatever he wants.

But McMahon hasn't fired Austin for the lamest reason: Austin makes him money. Lots of it. Now we know that "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase was right all along: Everyone has a price. McMahon's price can be measured in pay-per-view, ticket, merchandise, and *Raw* advertising dollars.

Not that we're surprised. McMahon has always been a blatant capitalist who would sell out the sport for a few bucks. Circus acts? Fine. Ridiculous skits (such as Brother Love)? Great. Athletes from other sports posing as wres-

Vince McMahon (left) has the power to kick Steve Austin right out of the WWF. But he'd rather just attack him (below), because if he fires Austin, the WWF owner loses a lot of money.

tlers? Okay. A champion he despises? No problem.

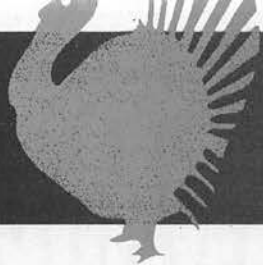
On one hand, we should congratulate McMahon for not firing a wrestler he hates so intensely. The problem is that McMahon hasn't resisted firing Austin because it's the right thing to do. He has resisted firing Austin because it doesn't make sense dollars-and-cents-wise.

## ERIC BISCHOFF: HE EMBARRASSED THE WHOLE SPORT!

Today's "Turnbuckle Turkey" Thanksgiving riddle. Winner gets the drumstick.

What kind of man has training in kickboxing and in the martial arts, hangs out with professional wrestlers nearly every day of his life, instigates a feud with a standup comedian who has never in his life stepped into a profes-





# PRESENTING THE 1998

sional ring, puts his butt on the line by ridiculing the comedian's standup act, and then not only loses to the comedian, but gets driven to the mat by the comedian's bandleader?

Pass out the drumsticks. You all know the answer. The kind of man we're talking about is one of a kind, thank goodness.

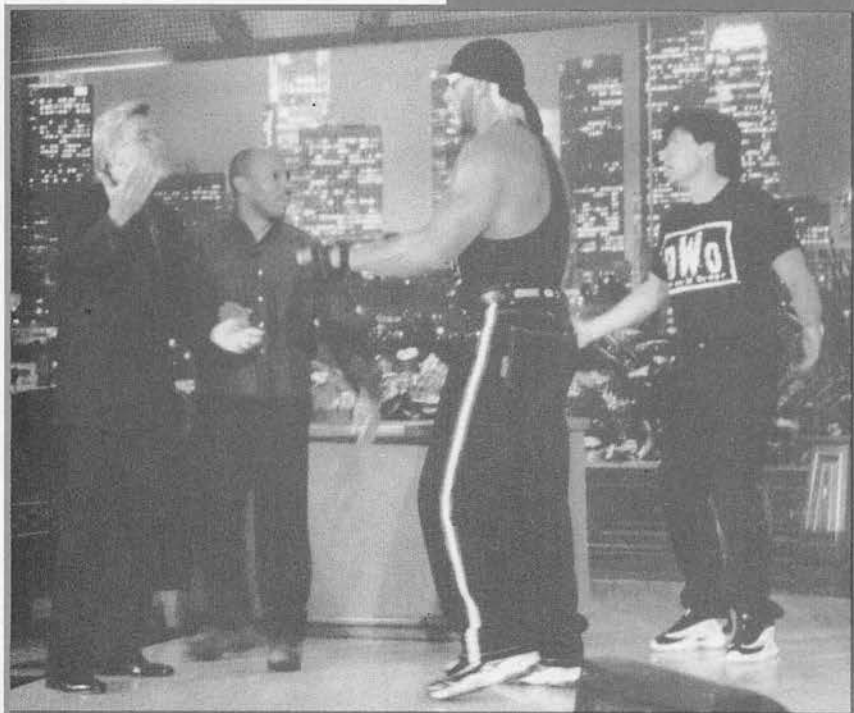
Eric Bischoff, of course.

Can you believe this guy!?

But we wouldn't be so hot and bothered over this if Bischoff merely made himself look bad. No. He also made wrestling look bad, because once again—in the great spirit of Lawrence Taylor pinning Bam Bam Bigelow—a man involved in wrestling got beaten by an outsider. This time, the outsider wasn't even a former pro football great. He was the big-chinned, unathletic host of *The*



Eric Bischoff shouldn't be smiling (above). Sure, his appearances on *The Tonight Show* with Dallas Page and Hollywood Hogan (below) got WCW publicity. But the fact that Leno pinned him is an embarrassment to the sport.



*Tonight Show.*

*Yipes!*

Leno handled himself with aplomb in their match at Road Wild, but it was really bandleader Kevin Eubanks who stole the show with a perfectly executed "Diamond cutter." Meanwhile, Bischoff fumbled in the ring. His kickboxing experience was useless. His jokes stink. His personality is abrasive. Need we go on?

## MARC MERO: THE ULTIMATE CHAUVINIST

You'd be hard-pressed to find a single WWF viewer who doesn't think Marc Mero is an idiot. After all, what man wouldn't want Sable at his side every minute of the day? But Mero's ego and insecurity not only destroyed his relationship with Sable, they put him at odds with wrestling's most popular—and arguably most resilient—woman.

At first, Mero treated Sable like his servant. He was a caricature of how men used to treat women, back when men considered the best women to be barefoot and pregnant. She'd hold the ropes for him. He'd make her remove his ring robe for him. He'd put himself front and center when every man in the arena wanted to see Sable. She got the applause. He stole it.

Finally, their relationship ended. At *Over the Edge*, Sable agreed to leave the WWF if Mero beat a wrestler of her choosing. She chose herself. Mero beat Sable, but only after making believe he was going to let Sable pin him.

Fortunately, in a rare display of good judgment, Vince McMahon



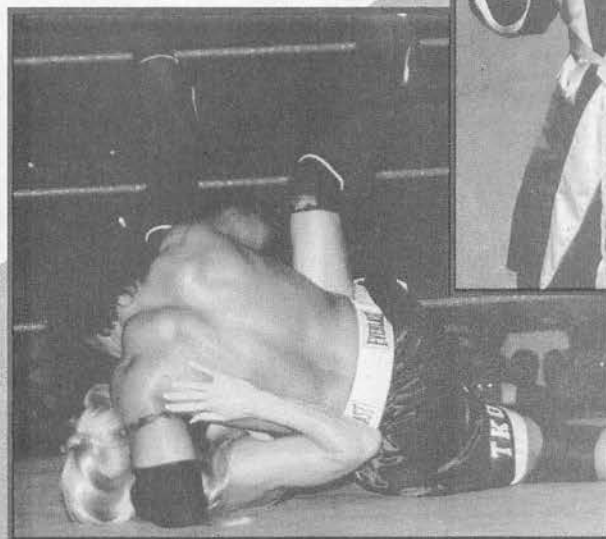
# TURNBUCKLE TURKEY AWARDS

allowed Sable to return. Unfortunately, in a typical display of bad judgment, Mero didn't attempt reconciliation with Sable. Instead, he took on Jacquelyn as his ring-mate. Jacquelyn and Sable started feuding. Mero kept dissing Sable.

Her displays of skin notwithstanding, Sable has maintained her integrity in this feud, while



That Marc Mero (above), he's unbelievably insecure. So he pinned the lovely Sable at Over the Edge (below). Yeah, he should be real proud of that accomplishment.



Mero has sunk lower and lower. There's no reason for him to keep defaming Sable. She's done nothing to hurt him. But Mero can't act like a mature adult in a relationship with any woman. Jacquelyn is sure to find that out.

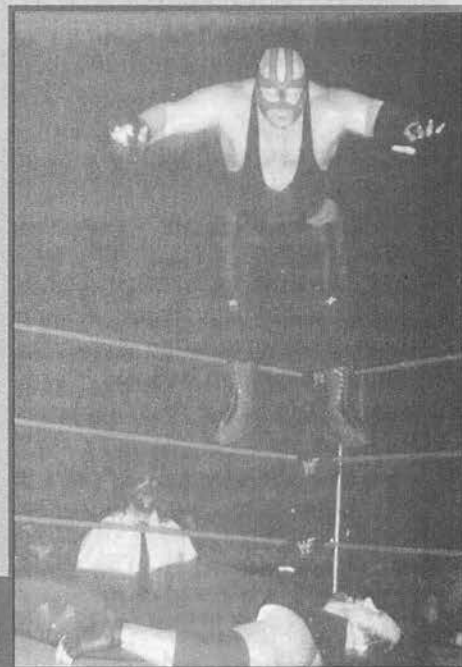
## VADER: WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

There was a time when Vader was the most feared man in wrestling.

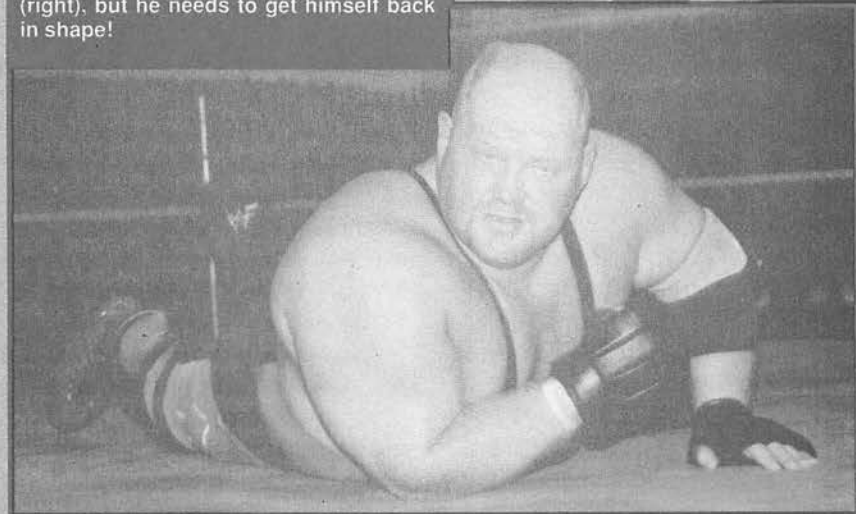
Intimidating. Nearly unbeatable. Vader was the man. He won three WCW World championships in 1992 and '93 and seriously injured several superstars. A match against Vader was like asking to

get your butt kicked ... and most of your body broken.

What happened to that Vader? Is he still feeling the effects of that night in 1995 when Hulk Hogan became the first person to get right up from his power bomb? Apparently, the psychological effects linger. Vader is no longer the man. Even he admits it.



We're getting this view of Vader (below) all too often. He still has the ability to dominate men like The Undertaker (right), but he needs to get himself back in shape!



# PRESENTING THE 1998

Vader was looking forward to his match against Kane at Over the Edge. He had suffered a fractured orbital bone in his No Way Out PPV match against Kane in February and desired revenge. When Vader lost to Kane at Over the Edge, his toughest critic was himself.

Everyone who ordered the pay-per-view heard him call himself fat afterward.

Well, not only has Vader lost to Kane several times since then, he has also helped The Nation's overall winning percentage by losing numerous matches to Mark Henry. *Mark Henry!* Vader has been completely ineffective since returning to the ring, leading us to believe that this once-dominant superstar's killer instinct is gone. Everybody knows he can be beaten. Nobody fears Vader.

## STING: COULDN'T SAY NO TO THE NWO

For months, Hollywood Hogan, Eric Bischoff, Kevin Nash, and Scott Hall kept asking Sting, "Which side are you on?" After saying nothing for a long time, Sting eventually made it clear: He wasn't on the NWO's side. He was tried-and-true WCW. Sting didn't join any cliques. As long as the NWO insisted on breaking the rules, Sting would fight back for the sake of good.

Now, of course, there are two NWOs: the rulebreaking NWO—NWO Hollywood—and the fan favorite NWO—NWO Wolfpac. NWO Hollywood wears black and white. NWO Wolfpac wears black and red. What's the difference between Hollywood and Wolfpac? Well, if you're color blind, there's



Sting is enjoying running with NWO Wolfpac (above), and he has looked real strong against The Giant recently (right). But what happened to the notion that Sting hated everything associated with the letters N, W, and O?

no difference at all. In this case, those who are color blind are seeing most clearly of all.

Yes, NWO Wolfpac is popular. Sure, NWO Wolfpac breaks the rules less frequently than NWO Hollywood. There's no doubt that given the choice, we'd rather see NWO Wolfpac rule WCW than NWO Hollywood.

There's also no doubt about this: The NWO is the NWO. It is a subversive clique whose stated goal is to rule WCW. Remember why the NWO was formed: to take over and destroy WCW. We haven't heard anyone state otherwise. The NWO is a clique. Sting is now a member of a clique. He is NWO. Hollywood or Wolfpac? That's just splitting hairs.

We always thought Sting was an independent person. Apparently he isn't. Sting has gone along with the crowd and, by doing so, has sold himself out. No longer does he fight for the benefit



of himself. He fights for the benefit of a group.

Remember: Wrestling is a one-on-one sport. There shouldn't be any use for assistance in the ring.

Sting is NWO.

NWO is bad.

So Sting is bad.

## PAUL ELLERING: SO MUCH FOR LOYALTY

Unfortunately, wrestling has more than its share of backstabbing jerks who care about nobody but themselves and will sell out



# TURNBUCKLE TURKEY AWARDS

their own best friends. Paul Ellering might not be the lowest of the low, but he's right down there with the hogs, wallowing in their filth and covering himself with their mud.

Okay, maybe we just got carried away. Just the sight of a

turkey makes us sick. Christmas? *Bah, humbug!*

Then again, maybe Ellering is as bad as we say.

There are two ways to look at The Road Warriors. Some might say the Warriors made Ellering great. Others (including Ellering) might say Ellering made the Warriors great. More realistically, the Warriors couldn't have been truly great without Ellering, while Ellering would never have become famous without Hawk and Animal.

The relationship should have endured. In fact, it did endure over the past several years, when Ellering no longer managed Hawk and Animal but remained their friend and occasional adviser.

Key word: friend.

Hawk and Animal ignored Ellering's advice to not take Sunny as their manager. Ellering got angry. On June 29, when it appeared Ellering was on the verge of a reunion with the renamed LOD 2000, Ellering instead attacked Hawk and Animal and announced his new alliance with Skull and Eight-Ball.

Ellering could have simply explained to Hawk and Animal, "Look, I don't want to be associated with you guys anymore. I'm managing the Disciples of Apocalypse." Instead, he delivered his mes-

sage in the most despicable way possible. He turned his back on close friends.

Even worse, Ellering probably knew Hawk was having "personal problems," as the WWF terms them. He should have known that by turning away from Hawk, he might have worsened Hawk's problems. Hawk needs friends. Now he has one less. We wonder if Ellering can live with this burden. If he's any kind of man, he can't.

**BUFF BAGWELL:  
WE'LL NEVER TRUST  
HIM AGAIN**

Betcha never knew wrestling had so many ingrates, did ya? Well, that's what these "Turnbuckle Turkeys" are all about: to help you realize how you've been used and abused by some of mankind's true lowlifes. Folks, there's low, and then there's *looooooww*. Buff Bagwell is *looooooooooooooooooooooww*.

Let this be a lesson: Never trust a man who dresses up like Rick Steiner, then gets down on his knees in the middle of the ring and barks like a dog. Never trust a man like that. Never.

Buff Bagwell. Never trust the guy.

After all, he's the man who ran right into the NWO's arms back in November 1996. That's when Eric Bischoff warned WCW wrestlers that they would become targets of the NWO if they didn't convert their WCW contracts into NWO contracts within 30 days. Bagwell didn't even wait 30 minutes to move up to the other (read: safe) side. So remember this: Marcus



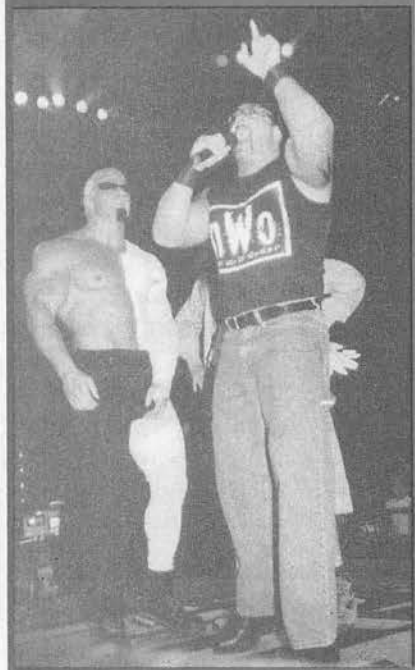
Paul Ellering did a lot to help The Road Warriors (above). No question about it. But for him to ally himself with Skull and Eight-Ball (below), their arch-rivals, took a lot of nerve.



# PRESENTING THE 1998



If Buff Bagwell wants to be friends with Scott Steiner (below), fine, but he should have shown a little more respect to the people who were so concerned about him after he suffered that serious neck injury (above).



Bagwell, NWO to this day, remains a loyal member not because he wants to be, but because he's saving his own hide.

The thing is, Bagwell's hide doesn't need saving these days. He's out of action until at least

next spring with a neck injury suffered at the hands of Rick Steiner during a tag team match in April. Bagwell was almost paralyzed, and the fans' outpouring of support was heartwarming. Bagwell appre-

ciated the support. At least he said he did when he came to the ring in a wheelchair this past July.

But it was all a ruse. He had actually recovered enough that he no longer needed a wheelchair. Just when it looked like he was about to forgive Rick Steiner and perhaps befriend him, he joined Scott Steiner in an attack on Rick. Bagwell has slapped the fans in the face. They were at his side in a time of need. But Bagwell, clearly fearing NWO Hollywood retribution, refuses to follow his heart. He remains with NWO Hollywood because he wants to save his own hide.

## TOD GORDON: HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

Tod Gordon's feud with NWA promoter Dennis Coraluzzo was despicable enough before he brought a dead wrestler into the fray. So what did Gordon do? He brought a dead wrestler into the fray. *That's low!*

Gordon was one of five masked men who invaded an NWA card in late-June. Then, at a July 31 NWA card in Mount Holly, New Jersey, he attacked Coraluzzo and Doug

Gilbert while launching an inappropriate—and thoroughly transparent—verbal attack on the late Eddie Gilbert.

Craig Peters, *INSIDE WRESTLING*'s contributing editor, has a



Tod Gordon (above) obviously has a problem with NWA promoter Dennis Coraluzzo. That's his business. What he had no business doing was mocking the late Eddie Gilbert by wearing his ring attire on one of the nights he invaded the NWA (below).





# TURNBUCKLE TURKEY AWARDS

saying regarding use of the word "late" to describe a dead person. "They're not late," Peters said. "They're just not coming." The quip is appropriate regarding Eddie Gilbert and Tod Gordon. Gilbert's not late. He's gone. He can't defend himself.

Stevie Richards, 911, The Pit Bulls, Kimona, Brian Lee, Rocco Rock, and Gordon—the former ECW commissioner—all made appearances at the NWA card in Mount Holly. They were former ECW-ites invading the NWA, and they focused their invasion on Coraluzzo. Gordon struck Coraluzzo with a chair and even struck Coraluzzo's teenage son, Marc.

After that impressive display of guts, Gordon pulled on an Eddie Gilbert ring jacket and Eddie Gilbert sunglasses. Doug Gilbert confronted Gordon—he was incensed by this desecration of his brother's memory—and ended up getting attacked by the ex-ECW crew.

Gordon is now calling his little group Hot Stuff Inc., which is exactly what Eddie Gilbert called *his* group. But this is by no means a tribute to Gilbert. It's an insult. Gordon is desecrating the memory of a dead man. He is stomping on Eddie Gilbert's grave.

## J.J. DILLON: HE HAS SOME RESEARCH TO DO

Nobody—repeat, *nobody*—in WCW should be more familiar with the rulebook than J.J. Dillon, the chairman of the Executive Committee. Not Mike Tenay, the knowledgeable broadcaster. Not

even Eric Bischoff, the president. Certainly not Chris Jericho.

But Jericho keeps on coming up with loopholes in the rulebook and Dillon, always stunned, keeps on having no choice but to bow his head and say, "You're right."

Shouldn't Dillon know about these loopholes? Aren't there any requirements for the job of WCW Executive Committee chairman? For example, knowing the rules?

Guess not. For months, Jericho found loopholes to pro-

it, as is his right. But these countless delays and apparent title changes hurt the federation. Dillon shouldn't have to wait for Jericho's protest to make a ruling. He should have said right after the match, "Malenko interfered. Misterio's victory is void."

How many other rules is Dillon unaware of? How many other wrestlers are being hurt by rules not being enforced?

Perhaps Dillon should spend his Thanksgiving holed up in a well-lit room, pouring over the rulebook, learning about the sport he pretends to oversee. □



Do you know the WCW rulebook well, J.J. Dillon (left)? We'll take that as a "no." Chris Jericho (below) knows it a lot better than you. You should be ashamed.

tect his WCW cruiserweight title. He did it again after Bash at the Beach in July, when Rey Misterio Jr. apparently beat him for the belt. Jericho protested, arguing that a suspended wrestler—Dean Malenko—had interfered in the match. According to the rules, "if any suspended wrestler attempts to interfere in a sanctioned match, the outcome of the bout shall be nullified."

Fine. Jericho isn't changing the rulebook. He's merely using



# HOTSEAT

## STEVIE RAY

### "THE GIANT DID BOOKER A FAVOR"

**H**ARLEM HEAT. THE name conjures forth memories of one of the most dominant tag teams of the 1990s. Yet despite a record seven WCW World tag team title reigns, Booker T and Stevie Ray often felt overlooked in favor of such high-profile teams as the Steiners and Kevin Nash and Scott Hall.

When Stevie Ray found himself on the sidelines after an injury late last year, brother Booker T tried his hand at singles wrestling. Somewhat unfortunately for Ray, Booker T excelled, capturing the TV title for the first of five times with a win over Disco Inferno on December 29, 1997, and earning the kind of respect Ray long felt Harlem Heat had been denied.

While Ray publicly wished his brother well in his title defenses, reports quickly began to circulate that he and Booker T were at odds over the future of the team. Reports of angry locker room shouting matches were vehemently denied by both men as Booker T continued a solid string of title defenses.

A few weeks after he outlasted Chris Benoit in a best-of-seven series and regaining the TV strap in a win over Dave "Fit" Finlay, Booker T was advised by doctors to sit on the sidelines and rest a

series of nagging injuries. In the meantime, Ray produced what he claimed was a notarized document granting him power of attorney to defend the TV title for Booker T.

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**"When I immediately got in The Giant's face and challenged him, the guys in NWO Hollywood knew that I was man enough to put myself up against anybody."**

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On an August 10 *Nitro* card, Ray lost the TV title to Chris Jericho after falling victim to an attack by The Giant. Ray then targeted The Giant for revenge, but it soon became clear that NWO Hollywood was only testing Ray's courage before offering him a position. One T-shirt later, the NWO had finalized a deal with its newest recruit.

This latest wrinkle in the Harlem Heat saga only makes a reunion between Booker T and Stevie Ray seem farther off. *INSIDE WRESTLING* sent Senior Writer Dan Murphy to meet with Ray.

**Q:** You've been a man in the headlines lately. I wanted to

thank you for making some time to answer a few questions for *INSIDE WRESTLING*.

**A:** It's your pleasure, chump. Let's hurry this thing up. I've got a workout with "Big Poppa Pump" Scotty Steiner and Scott Hall in 45 minutes, and I ain't lettin' no doughy pencil-pusher make me keep my homeboys waiting.

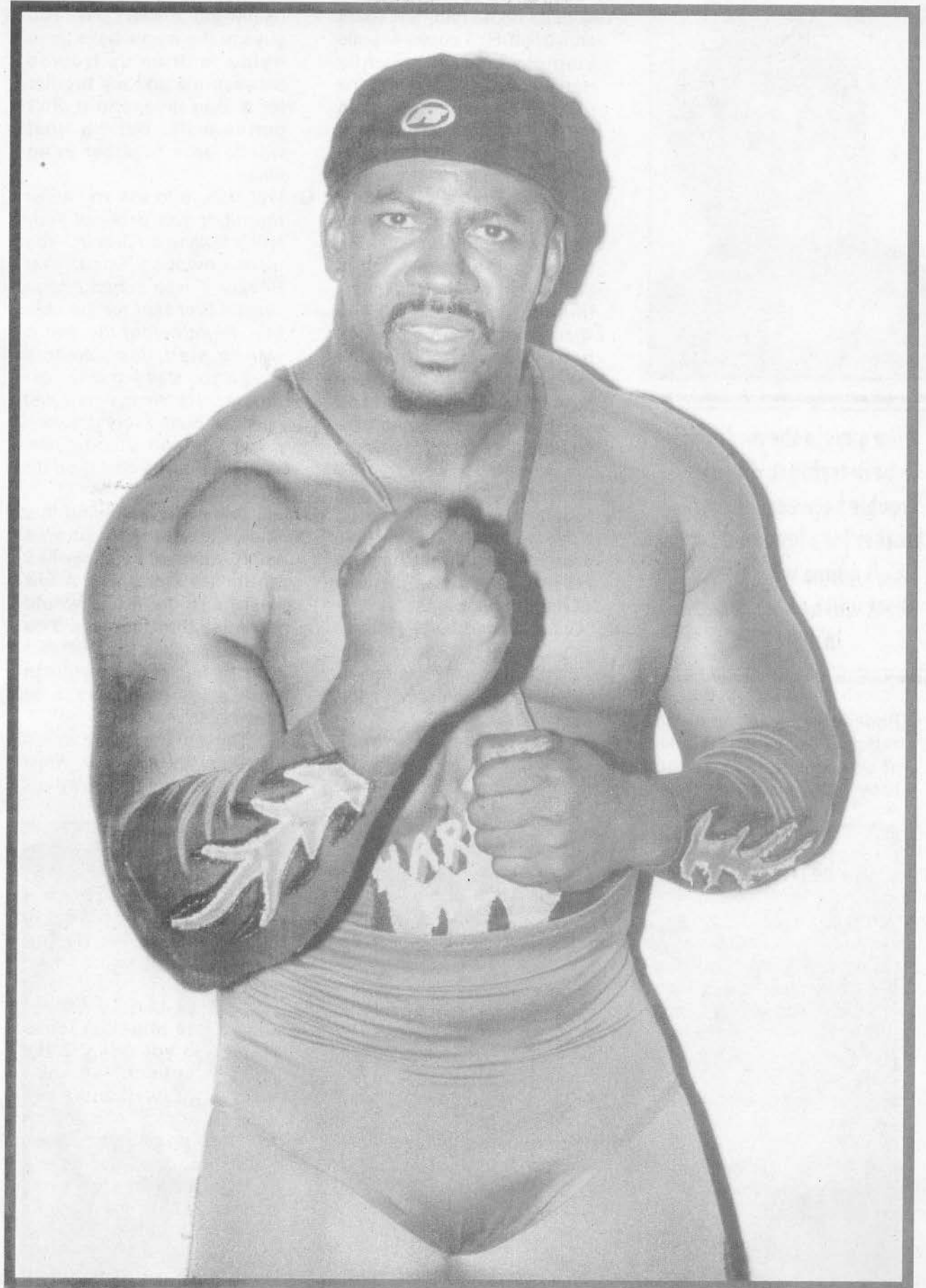
**Q:** Okay, then let me cut right to the heart of the matter. Does your decision to join NWO Hollywood effectively end any chances of a Harlem Heat reunion?

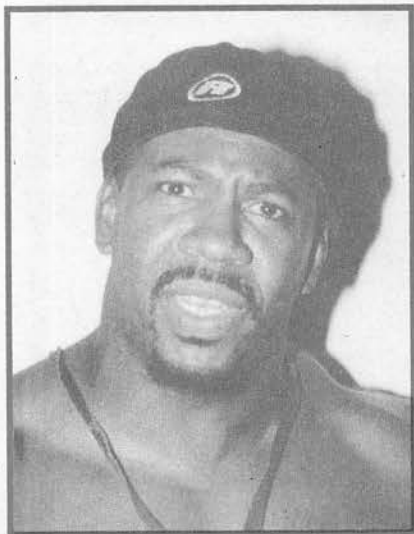
**A:** Are you kiddin' me? Not at all. In fact, to be honest with you, The Giant did Booker a favor when he caused me to lose the TV title. He did Booker a huge favor. That's the truth, punk.

**Q:** What do you mean by that?

**A:** Maybe this situation looks strange to you boys in the press. You think you know everything about wrestling, but you don't. I was a little confused about what's been going on, too, but here's what went down. Hollywood Hogan and the rest of the black and white, the only true NWO that's out there, wanted to offer me and







With us in the fold, The Giant and Scott Hall could wrestle singles matches while Harlem Heat stepped into the role The Outsiders played in the past, before Kevin Nash lost his way. NWO Hollywood sent The Giant out to cause me to lose the TV title to see how I'd respond. Hey, man, I was pretty mad about that. I took a lot of pride in defending my belt. When I immediately got in The Giant's face and challenged him, the guys in NWO Hollywood knew that I was man enough to put myself up against anybody, no matter who it was, so they asked me to join. I don't mind telling you that they put together a real sweet offer. Now when Booker comes around, he can get back to his true calling as a member of Harlem Heat.

**Q:** Wait a second here. What do you mean, "when Booker comes around"? Have you approached him about this plan already?

**A:** That's none of your business, and let me cut you off before you start goin' where

I know you'll start goin'. You guys in the media have been trying to drum up trouble between me and my brother for a long time, and it ain't gonna work. Harlem Heat will be back together in no time.

**Q:** Well, I have to ask you about the night you first got your NWO Hollywood T-shirt. You were obviously upset that Booker T was scheduled to wrestle Bret Hart for the U.S. title. Right before the match was to start, the cameras caught you standing over your brother. He clearly had just been attacked. Every assumed it was you who attacked him. Are you ready to admit you did do it?

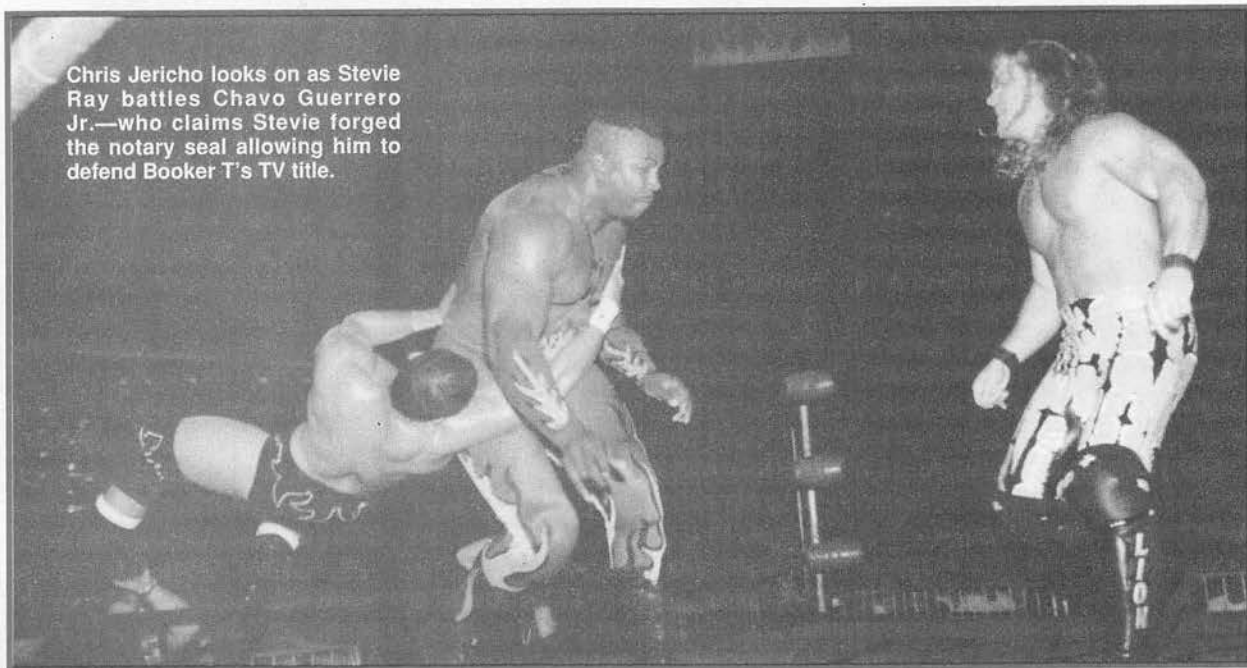
**A:** I'm this close to ending this interview right here, sucka. I don't know what happened to Booker that night. A few years ago, he never would have let that happen. You got to be ready for stuff like that to happen. You gotta have eyes in the back of your head.

**Q:** So why did you decide to join NWO Hollywood now, while your brother is obviously not

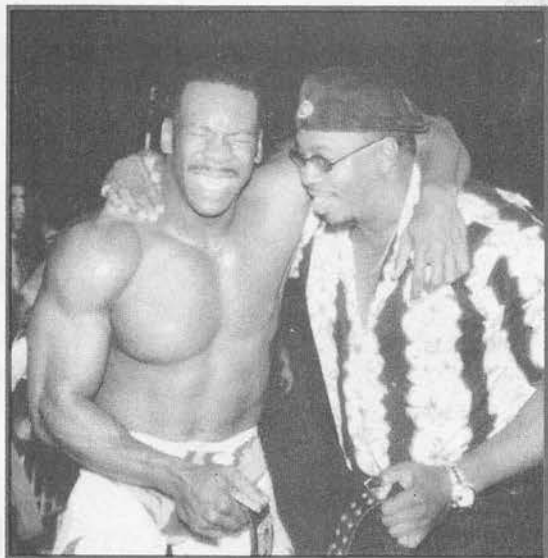
**"You guys in the media have been trying to drum up trouble between me and my brother for a long time, and it ain't gonna work. Harlem Heat will be back together in no time."**

Booker a spot in the organization. They've been lookin' at us for a long time. And they liked what they saw.

Chris Jericho looks on as Stevie Ray battles Chavo Guerrero Jr.—who claims Stevie forged the notary seal allowing him to defend Booker T's TV title.







Are Booker T and Stevie Ray poised to re-form Harlem Heat, one of the most successful duos in recent WCW history? Or has NWO Hollywood gained a new enemy in Booker T?

*back at 100 percent? Why didn't you wait for him to return and then join together? Or better yet, why join the NWO at all? Especially since Hall and The Giant had the belts when you joined the group. It seems to me you're not being totally honest with me here.*

**A:** What are you trying to imply, punk? You know, I'm sick and tired of people tryin' to ruin my good name. First people say I shouldn't have been defending the TV title anyway, and now you accuse me of lying.

**Q:** I didn't say ...

**A:** Shut up and let me talk for a minute! I knew my brother had to take some time off, and I knew how hard he worked to win that TV belt. I couldn't stand to see some Executive Committee somewhere stripping him of the belt for not being able to defend it once every 30 days, so I went out and had my lawyers put together a notarized document that allowed me to stand in for Booker as champion. That's all there is to it.

**Q:** But Chavo Guerrero claimed to

have found a notary stamp in your locker, which would seem to indicate that you forged that document yourself.

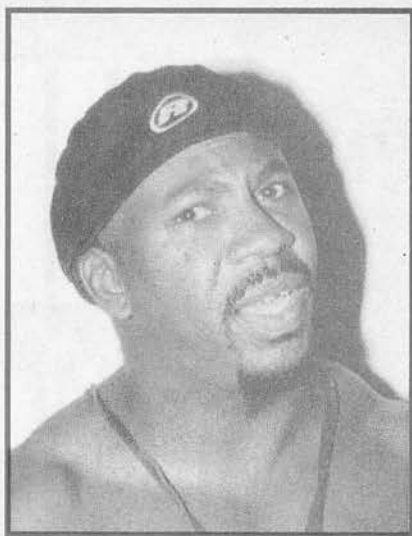
**A:** It's funny how people are so quick to believe a fruitcake like Chavo Guerrero over me. Not only is he a maniac, but he was rifling through my bags trying to steal my wallet, and he's a reliable source?

**Q:** Good point, though I don't quite think Chavo was after your money. Still, what convinced you to join the NWO, especially after The Giant's interference cost you—and your brother—the TV title?

**A:** The TV title was standing in the way of Stevie Ray and Booker T's return to the top of WCW, and NWO Hollywood drove that point home. Look, I felt bad losing the belt Booker worked his tail off to win it, especially to a pretty boy like Chris Jericho, but it's all in the past now. Booker understands that, I understand it, and NWO Hollywood understands it.

**Q:** Somehow I still don't see Booker T as accepting your title loss. In fact, now that he's free from defending the TV belt, wouldn't he be interested in chasing another singles title? Perhaps Bret Hart's U.S. title? He and Bret had a few clashes before Booker T was injured. Why hasn't Booker come out and said he supports your decision to join NWO Hollywood?

**A:** Man, you just can't get it through your head, can you? Booker and I both had a run as singles wrestlers, and now we're ready to



**"The TV title was standing in the way of Stevie Ray and Booker T's return to the top of WCW, and NWO Hollywood drove that point home."**

recreate the greatest team in WCW history. And with the backing of NWO Hollywood, Harlem Heat will be stronger than ever. Booker knows that. He told me he's with me. There's no reason for him to tell you, too. I'm his brother. I can speak for him.

**Q:** Yeah, well, before you spend too much time signing the praises of NWO Hollywood, maybe I should point out all the great things it's done for the careers of Vincent, Brian Adams, The Disciple, and Scott Norton.

**A:** Are you giving me lip, punk? That's it, I don't need your garbage about me being a liar, or your attitude, and I'm not going to be late for a workout beating your hide over it. Just remember that you heard it from the newest member of NWO Hollywood first: The Heat is coming back hotter than ever! □

**THE**

**VAL**

**VENIS**

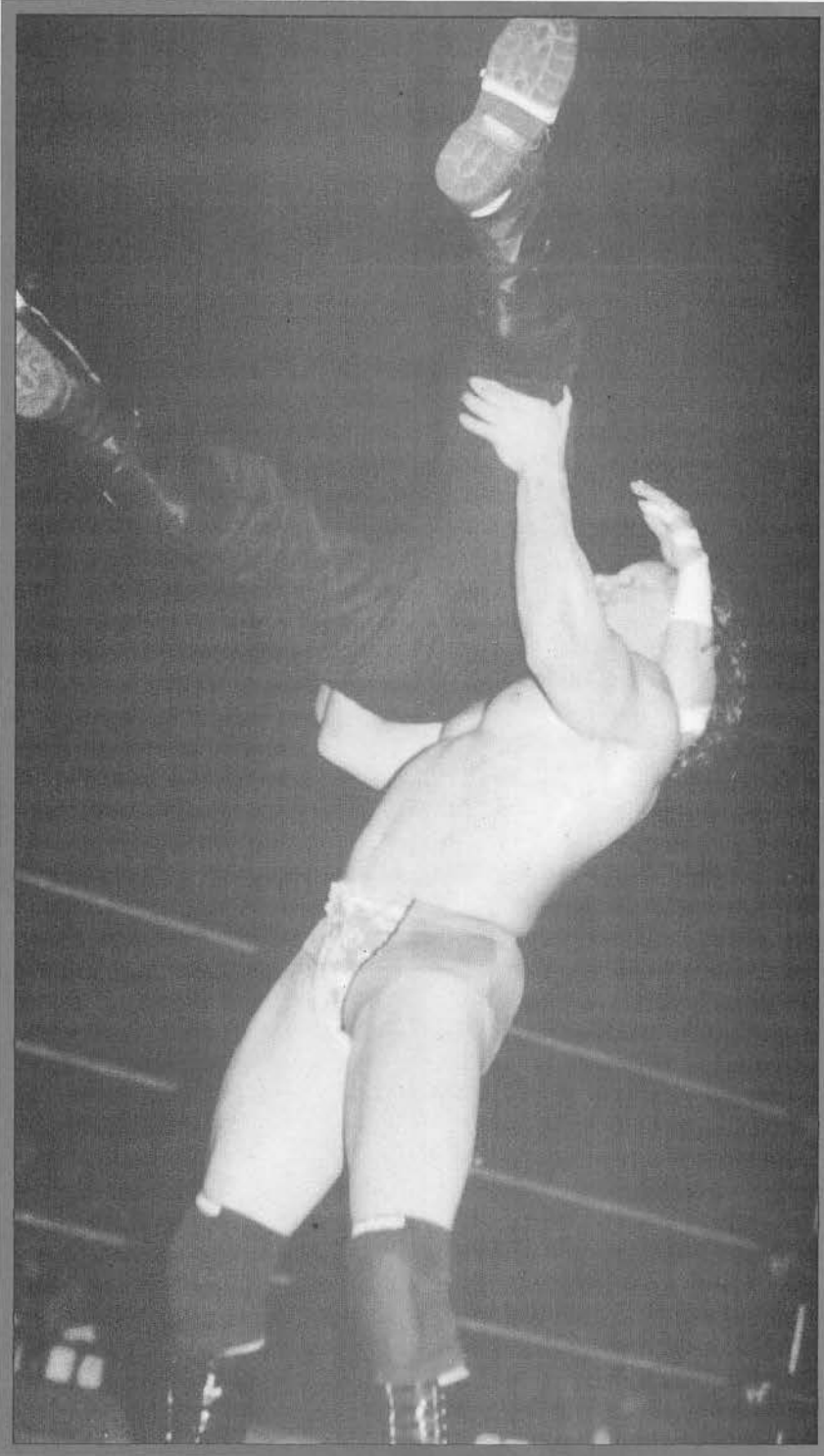
**PERSONA:**

**IT'S ALL A FRONT**





**With his  
"Hello, ladies!"  
greeting  
and cocky  
strut to the  
ring, the  
towel-clad  
wrestler named  
Val Venis has  
made quite an  
impression in  
the WWF.  
But there  
is far more  
behind the  
... persona ...  
than what  
Venis wants  
us to see**



Papi Chulo is learning what most of Val Venis' opponents find out the hard way: Venis is no rookie. He brought a lot of experience to the WWF with him.

#### **By Steve Anderson**

**V**AL VENIS WOULD have you believe that he is a famous movie star with a wealth of ... uh ... assets. Val Venis would have you believe that

he hobnobs with famous starlets, and that he has a prematch ritual that would make the most grizzled sailor blush.

However, there is more to Val Venis. Much more than he would ever want to reveal.



**Make no mistake about it: Venis' career is definitely on the rise. Some are even talking about him securing a marquee spot in DeGeneration X!**

If you—\*ahem\*—strip away all the rhetoric and pelvic thrusts, you will find a promising young wrestler who is using an elaborate psychological front to wreak havoc with his opponents' strategies. At first glimpse, what seems like a WWF newcomer still cutting his teeth is actually a primping, preening, and very confident seasoned wrestler.

"Seasoned," in fact, is a good way to describe Venis. While he may be a WWF newcomer, he knows his way around four turnbuckles. He has an established track record as a champion. Before walking down WWF aisles with his waist wrapped in a towel, Venis chose to cover his face with a mask in Mexico's EMLL. As Steele, he held the EMLL heavyweight title for four months, having defeated Rayo de Jalisco Jr.

Gaining experience (let alone holding a title) in a rough-and-tumble, high-flying promotion like EMLL is the perfect training ground for a wrestler longing for the spotlight. In addition to his

experience south of the border, Venis trained in the WWF's dojo with Dory Funk Jr. It's a rugged proving ground that effectively separates pretenders from contenders. Those who emerge from the dojo in one piece and still have a desire to continue in the wrestling business are usually ready for success in the WWF.

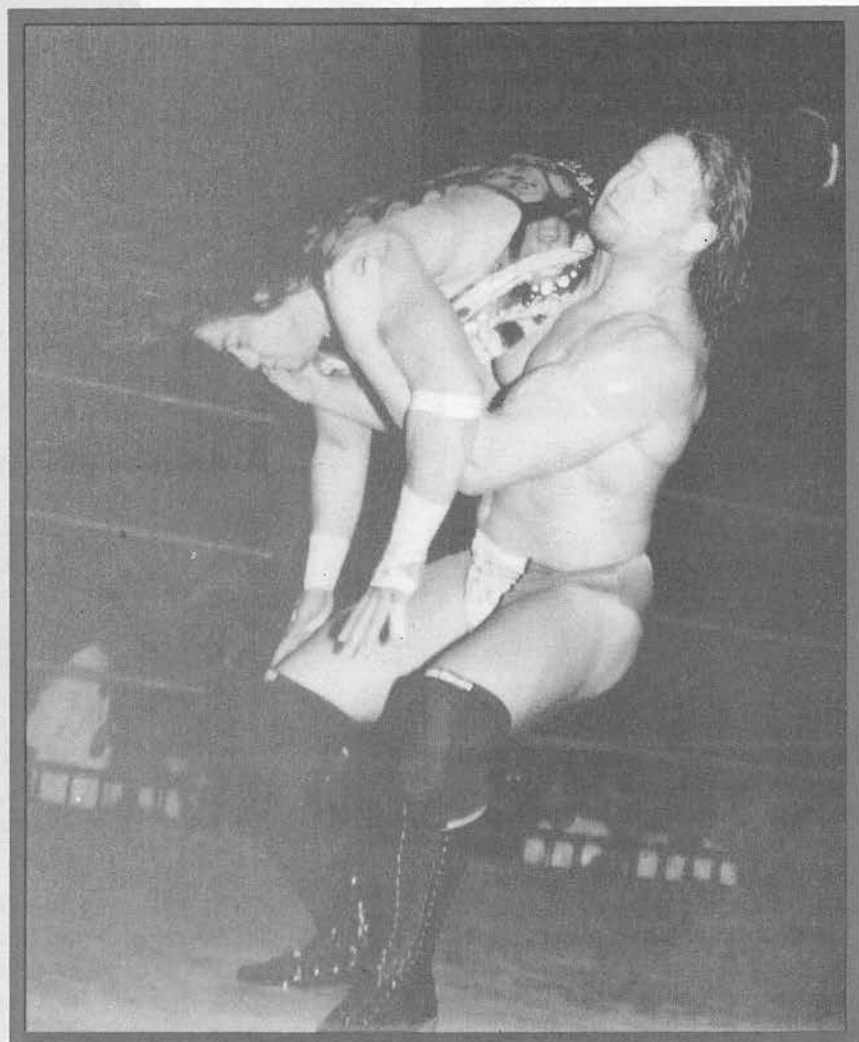
"There was something special about this kid from the very start," recalled Funk. "Even though he came to me with experience and a little bit of arrogance, he was still willing to learn even more. He wanted to know the ins and outs of the physical and mental competition that he'd run into in the WWF."

For Venis, experience was not

enough when he entered the WWF. He went through the training camp in an effort to familiarize himself with the style of the premier federation. Physical skills can take a man a long way in the bright WWF spotlight, but a psychological advantage can be just the ingredient for true success.

So was born Val Venis, a purported film star ... of the adult genre.

The contrived persona affects opponents in many ways. First, the brash cockiness of the young man leads a foe to believe that he is more than just a rookie wrestler. The poise and polish gives the immediate impression that Venis is experienced beyond his years—which, in fact, he is.



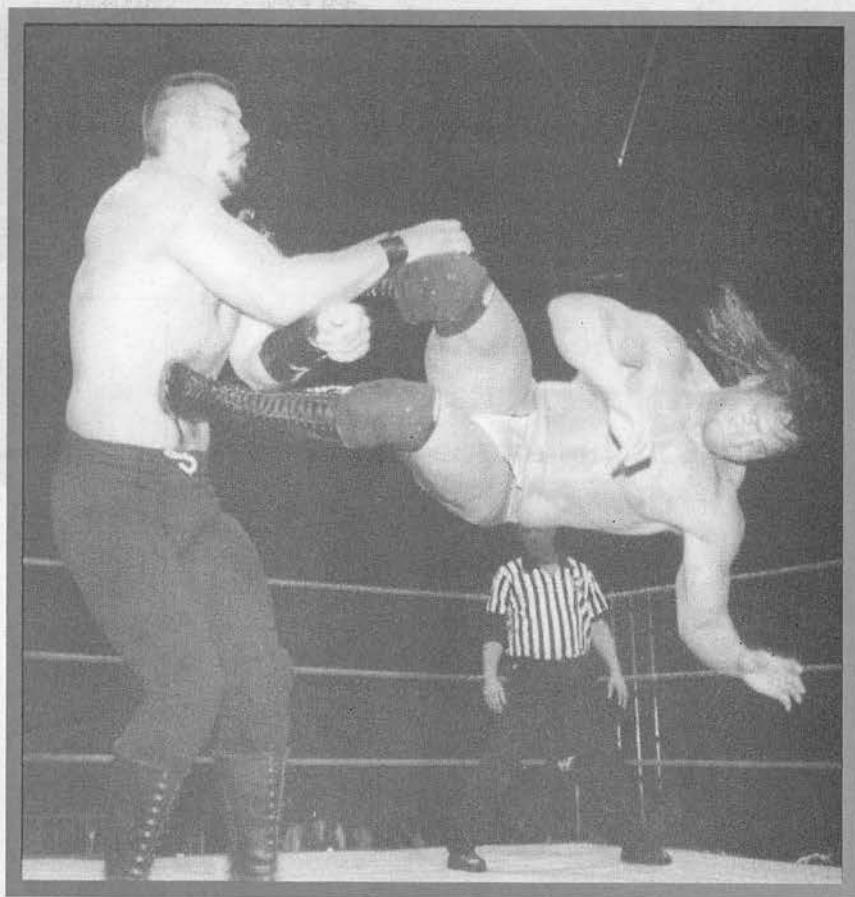
**If Venis is able to maintain his career momentum, a championship belt could come his way in the very near future.**



Second, the fad of the female valet plays right into Venis' hands. Let's face it: He likes women, and he always gives them a special greeting before he enters an arena. This strategy can infuriate an opponent, and he has already used it effectively in his battles with Kaienai.

Third, in this age in which fans love to cheer for the anti-heroes, Venis fits right in. When he debuted with the WWF, he targeted fan favorites. Soon, he became one by default when crowds took his side in his battles with Kaienai and their newest member, Taka Michinoku, who turned against Venis recently and joined his former rivals.

The critics still have voiced their skepticism over Venis' ability to translate his initial success into a victory for a WWF title. He came close to capturing the European title at SummerSlam, but he let his temper get the best of him. Frustrated by his inability to gain an advantage over D-Lo Brown, Venis shoved a referee and got himself disqualified, a mistake that a more seasoned pro probably



Venis goes high into the air to land a solid dropkick to Kurrgan's belly and sternum. Before long, expect Venis to be battling for championship gold! He has already proven that he is a very, very good athlete.

would not have made. At that point in a key match, Venis forgot to be Venis. He allowed an opponent and a referee to get under the skin he likes to show off so much.

Cool confidence must always take precedence over frenzied frustration. Attacking a referee and swatting at *Pacific Blue's* Mario Lopez, who sat at ringside for a WWF event recently, will not advance Venis' career. If he has a mission or an agenda, he must stay focused on it and concern himself with his opponents, not referees or actors.

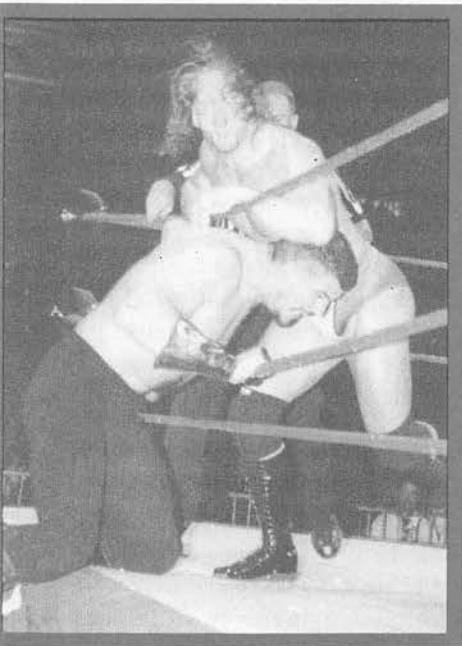
"There will always be stuff that will throw you off your game. It's happened to all of us," said Funk. "Focus and concentration are two things Val will have to learn for himself. There isn't a title reign or dojo that can teach you that. It just comes with experience."

Venis will have many other

opportunities and could be wearing gold by the end of the year. He's that good an athlete. Rumors persist of a possible membership offer in *DeGeneration X*, a group that seems perfect for a brash individual like Venis. Whatever the route Venis takes, you can count on him strutting and swinging his hips the whole way.

"What you see is what you get with the 'Big Valbowski,' baby," Venis says. "Every WWF superstar who wants to step into my world will feel the 'Money Shot.' It will not be something they welcome. It will be cold, hard reality."

A young and confident wrestler is always an easy target. There are many with more experience who will try to knock Venis off the pedestal he has created for himself. But if they think it will be easy, well, then they haven't done a very good job scouting him. □



Kurrgan's shoulder to the midsection stuns Venis momentarily, but this confident young star can't be kept down for long.

**The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ...**  
**One On One**

**T**WO YEARS AGO, many observers couldn't understand why Taz signed Bill Alfonso as his manager. They appeared to be as different as two men could be. But those who knew both men knew they shared the same hunger for dominance, title belts, and respect.

Ultimately, Alfonso's boasting and Taz's winning streak earned them a match with Sabu at Barely Legal, but that's when things fell apart for ECW's "odd couple." After Taz defeated Sabu, Alfonso, who claimed to have bet a lot of money on Sabu, led Sabu and Rob Van Dam in a sneak-attack on his former protege, driving a permanent wedge between them.

However, Taz's hatred for Shane Douglas and his lust for the ECW title might now force him to set aside his animosity for Alfonso. When Sabu and Van Dam were attacked by The Triple Threat recently, Taz hit the ring and helped Sabu and Van Dam fight off their opponents. As the crowd chanted "New Triple Threat!" Alfonso urged Taz to join forces with the ECW tag champions, but Taz left the ring on his own. He has since helped Van Dam and Sabu on several other occasions.

Alfonso realizes re-signing a top contender like Taz could finally bring an ECW heavyweight champion into his stable, and Taz realizes he'll need backup to counter Chris Candido and Bam Bam Bigelow if he hopes to take Shane Douglas' belt. But are those desires enough for Taz and Alfonso to join forces again? We asked both men to talk things over ... "One On One."

# ONE O



**"You know as well as I do that I don't give a damn about Sabu and Van Dam ... The fact of the matter is that Shane Douglas is trying to avoid a match with me by starting a feud with you."**

**—Taz**

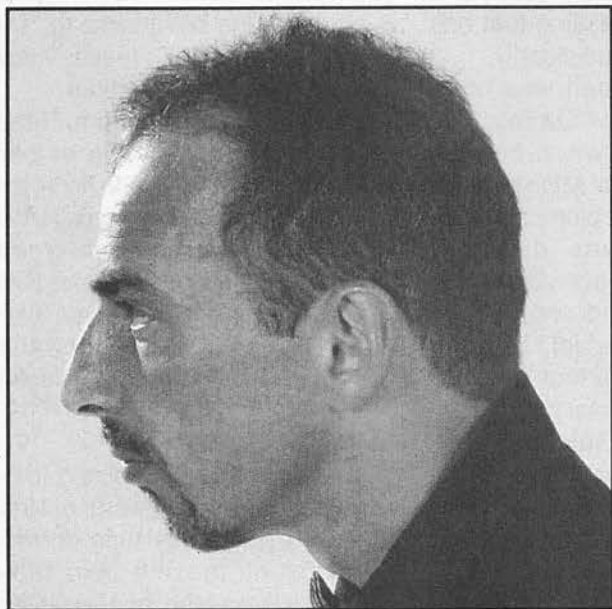
**BILL ALFONSO:** I guess I should start things off by publicly thanking you for helping us out when the Dudleys and The Triple Threat jumped us. Of course, Sabu and "Mr. Monday Night" would have run those chumps off eventually, but I appreciate your help, Taz.

**TAZ:** Fonzie, you know as well as I do that I don't give a damn what happens to Sabu and Van Dam. If it had been anybody else running out to break their necks, I might just have let it go. The fact of the matter is that Shane Douglas is trying to avoid a match against me by starting a feud with you. I'm not about to let that happen.

**ALFONSO:** So that puts you in the market for some allies, Taz. Think about it. It would be like old times. You and me, together again, but now with Sabu and Rob Van Dam on our side. We'd be the strongest force in wrestling. The Triple Threat wouldn't have a chance against us.

**TAZ:** You got a lot of guts trying to sweet-talk me, Fonzie! You turned on me at Barely Legal—or did you forget all about that little incident? I beat Sabu in the middle of the ring, and you showed the world that you'd rather associate with losers than winners. Why the hell should I set

# N ONE



**"The Triple Threat has already targeted Sabu and Van Dam. We've been dragged into some kind of gang war, and we're a man down right now. I could use your help, Taz."**  
—Bill Alfonso

myself up for another sneak-attack?

**ALFONSO:** Because it would be in both of our best interests.

**TAZ:** Explain that.

**ALFONSO:** Taz, you know what this business is all about. Friendships fall apart all the time. We can't change what happened at Barely Legal, and we'll never get anywhere if we dwell on it. Listen: You want Douglas. You need help. I can give it to you. But I need your commitment.

**TAZ:** Everybody knows that Taz is the baddest man and the toughest man in ECW. I got to the top on my own, and I can win the belt on my own. As soon as Douglas gets the guts to face me, I'll be the ECW champion. You've made your bed, and you're going to have to lie in it. I've got my own concerns.

**ALFONSO:** What makes you think Douglas won't go on ducking you? What makes you think you'll ever get a fair match against him? Taz, you've got dozens of enemies and not a single ally. Put away your pride for just a second and hear me out. Do you respect Sabu?

**TAZ:** (Pauses) Professionally, yes. He gives it all he's

got every night. But I still don't like him.

**ALFONSO:** Do you respect "Mr. Monday Night"?

**TAZ:** For a pretty boy, he's doing okay. But he can be an even bigger jackass than Sabu.

**ALFONSO:** And do you still have any respect for me?

**TAZ:** Not a damn bit.

**ALFONSO:** Well ... I can live with that. But remember, this is business. You respect Sabu and Rob well enough to work with them, even if you hate them. And me? You know the damage you could do to me. In fact, I might be crazy just asking you to come back. I've felt what you can do, and I never want to be on the receiving end of that again. We can be the new Triple Threat, Taz. You heard the fans. You've seen the fear in The Triple Threat's eyes.

**TAZ:** I put the fear into The Triple Threat! I don't expect Douglas to give me a fair match. I've already gone through Bigelow, and everybody knows I'd cut right through Candido if I felt like it. Douglas is my only concern, and I know I can take him out. Don't waste my time with questions about who I respect.

**ALFONSO:** I'm not trying to waste your time, Taz. I'm only trying to prove a point. Don't you think I'm just as sick of hearing Douglas' mouth as you are? So Shane Douglas beat Al Snow when he had a bad elbow and something wrong with his sinuses. Big deal, considering he's been hiding behind his boys ever since!

**TAZ:** Go on.

**ALFONSO:** The Triple Threat has already targeted Sabu and Van Dam. We've been dragged into some kind of gang war, and we're a man down right now. I could use your help, Taz. I'm not going to risk seeing either Sabu or Van Dam put on the shelf by those cowards. I'm appealing to the baddest man in ECW because I know he's the only one man enough to watch our backs. And I respect him, regardless of how he feels about me.

**TAZ:** You told me you respected me before Barely Legal, too, Fonzie. For all I know, you set this whole thing up with The Triple Threat. Maybe you were afraid the Dudleys were going to beat your boys for the belts, so you asked The Triple Threat to run in if things got a little bit hairy.

**ALFONSO:** Taz, maybe I can never make you trust me again. Fine. But I can help you, and you can help us. You want to show Douglas how much you want him? You want to keep working on him mentally before he finally puts that belt on the line? Show him you'll do anything to make his life miserable. Team up with your worst enemies, just to twist the knife in his belly. Make him think you'll trade your soul for his hide. Take the advantage away from him and capitalize on it.

**TAZ:** For once in your miserable little life, you make a decent point. I'll tell you what, Fonzie. You want me as an ally? You've got it. But I'm not taking you on as a manager. We'll see how things go. You get me in the ring with Douglas, and we'll see what happens.

**ALFONSO:** Taz, you won't regret it, I guarantee that. With Sabu, Rob Van Dam, and Taz under the guidance of Bill Alfonso, ECW is going to see the end of The Triple Threat, and ECW is going to see a new champion. □



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## Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)

### EURO-MESS!

The WWF European belt is a total joke. It has to be the only title in the history of wrestling that has never changed hands cleanly.

The European belt was obviously designed for Davey Boy Smith to win, but when he was defeated by Shawn Michaels (of course he didn't get pinned or submit), the title was doomed. Michaels couldn't have cared less about that belt and simply laid down on the mat and let "Triple-H" beat him for it. Since that time, the title has become a total joke.

Helmsley sent Goldust out to defend the belt for him against Owen Hart, who later lost the belt back to Helmsley in an impromptu match when Hart was injured. Like

the "British Bulldog," Owen didn't lose by pinfall or submission. And now for the latest atrocity: D-Lo Brown wins the belt thanks to "The Rock's" interference. Please, Vince, this isn't even funny anymore.

So here is an ultimatum: Either retire the European title or persuade Davey Boy Smith to rejoin the fold and leave his purgatory in WCW. Maybe if Smith returned, the European title could be regarded as something more than a joke.

BRIAN PAGE  
Louisville, KY

### SMARTY PANTS

If ECW fans are supposed to be so knowledgeable about professional wrestling, why then do they cheer for all those stupid table

tricks and boo excellent technical wrestling?

How fans can boo great wrestlers like Justin Credible and Lance Storm and cheer Rob Van Dam and Sabu (who is also a great wrestler) is beyond me. Is it because Justin Credible's and Candido's finishing maneuvers do not require a table and a chair? No coincidence there.

I love all ECW wrestlers, including the ones I've already mentioned, but let's face it: Anybody can kick a chair and jump on a table. It takes a *real* athlete to execute a wrestling move well.

Sometimes I think all this stuff about ECW fans being an intelligent bunch is nothing but misinformation.

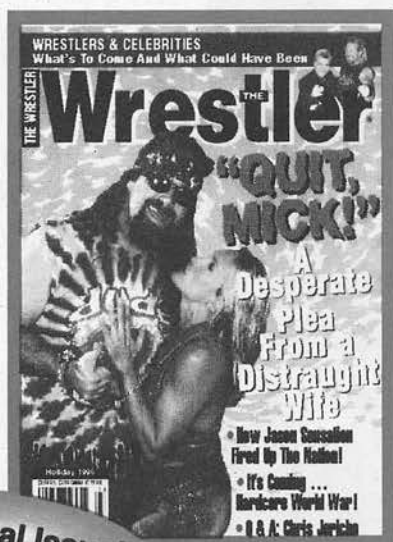
CHRISTIAN SOLARA  
Queens, NY ☐



Jerry Lynn and Rob Van Dam represent the best ECW has to offer. Such athletes should be cheered for their wrestling ability, not their gratuitous use of tables and chairs, according to Christian Solara.

# This Month In...

## THE Wrestler



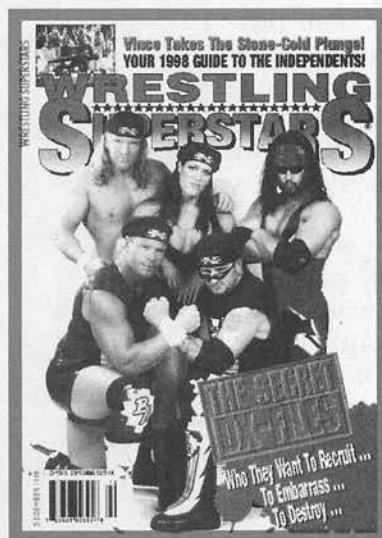
**Special Issue!**

We're all amazed when we see what **MICK FOLEY** puts his body through on a nightly basis—the falls he takes and poundings he absorbs. Ever think about how his wife feels about what he does? Don't miss **COLLETTE FOLEY's** heartfelt plea to her husband to quit wrestling! ... **KARL MALONE** and **DENNIS RODMAN** at Bash at the Beach. **JAY LENO** at Road Wild. **CYNDI LAUPER**, **MR. T**, and **ANDY KAUFMAN** in the '80s. Some celebrities love getting involved in wrestling. We came up with a few new celebrity-wrestler matchups (past and present) that you might find interesting!

All this—and much more!—  
in the Holiday 1998 issue of  
***The Wrestler***

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## WRESTLING SUPERSTARS



We have them and we're publishing them. We're talking about the secret **DX-FILES**. We found out who they'd like to recruit, who they want to embarrass, *and* who they want to destroy. You'll be as surprised by some of the names as we were ... Don't miss our 27-page guide to independent wrestling. If you love the indies, you *must* have this! ... Both **ROCKY MAIVIA** and **CHRIS JERICHO** have famous fathers, and you won't believe how they got involved when we matched up these two stars in our "Dream Match" ... Read all about the day **VINCE McMAHON** took a Stone-Cold plunge!

All this—and much more—  
in the December 1998 issue of  
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## On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

100 percent anti-McMahon. Big Vince is wearing out his welcome among his top stars. They're angry. They think he's using them. They wish he'd simply sign their paychecks and keep his mouth shut. But as long as he keeps signing their paychecks, they're not going to walk away from him.

McMahon was probably the only person in the world who didn't enjoy the Austin-Undertaker match at SummerSlam '98 at all. Austin got what he wanted. He successfully defended the WWF World title with a sensational victory over a stubborn challenger. Undertaker didn't get all of what he wanted—the WWF World title—but he wrestled admirably. Kane would have loved to have gotten his hands on Austin, but Undertaker shooed him away.

"It was probably the toughest match I've wrestled since becoming champion, and that's saying something," Austin said. "Undertaker gave it all he had and more, and he pushed me to the limit, but I wasn't about to let go of this damn belt. But if you ask me, what happened at the end was priceless. McMahon was probably sitting there waiting for Undertaker to slam me across the head with the belt, but you know what I saw in Undertaker's eyes? Respect.

And that's the bottom line."

Undertaker admitted to being disappointed over the loss and claimed he never had any thought of ambushing Austin. "He's got my respect," Undertaker said. "I don't like him, but he wrestled that match fair and square."

Kane walked away without causing trouble. Undertaker was happy about that.



Bloodied mouth and all, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin somehow held off The Undertaker in the WWF World title match at SummerSlam. This was one match Vince McMahon couldn't have enjoyed watching.

"This match wasn't between me and Vince McMahon or Austin and Vince McMahon or Kane and Austin," Undertaker said. "It was just me and Austin."

So what now? Austin will never fit McMahon's idea of a champion. He can't be controlled, and that can lead to a whole lot of problems for the WWF and its owner. McMahon's biggest fear, obviously, is that Austin—like Bruno Sammartino, Bob Backlund, and Hulk Hogan—will be a long-term champion, and that the federation will be defined over the next five or 10 years by Austin's actions. In the case of Bruno and Hogan, that was a good thing for the WWF. The federation prospered. In the case of Backlund, many people saw it as a bad thing for the federation. The WWF was seen by them as dull, lifeless.

Judging by the fans' reaction to Austin's victory and T-shirt sales

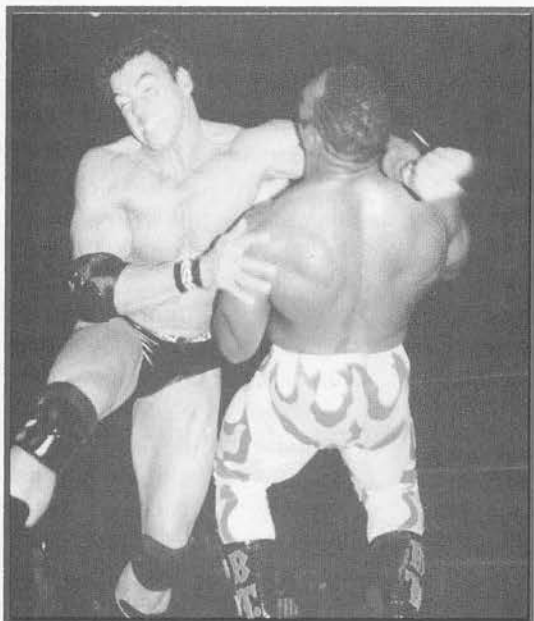
all night, Austin's WWF is anything but dull and lifeless. McMahon, bless his soul, should just shut up and keep counting his money. That's what he's in it for, isn't he?

As for SummerSlam, well, Hogan defined WrestleMania for a long time. Will SummerSlam, starting with the victory over The Undertaker, be Austin's stage? □



## Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)



Rick Martel's last big match happened at SuperBrawl VIII, when after turning in a strong performance against Booker T, he lost the WCW TV title. Dave Rosenbaum commends Martel for his decision to retire.

I've done it all, and I can still walk ..."

Okay, we'll stop it right there, with Martel saying, "I can still walk."

For some reason, so many wrestlers Martel's age or older just aren't as smart. I know of a lot of wrestlers from previous generations who live in constant pain as a result of the poundings they took throughout their careers.

It doesn't matter how good or bad a wrestler is. In fact, most of the better ones stayed around longer and were thus more susceptible to this sport's ravaging effects. Some men need the money and hang on; some make so much money that they can't help but hang on. But almost all hang on too long.

Team sports have managers and coaches who tell you when the time is right to retire. Individual sports like wrestling and boxing leave the decision in

the hands of the competitor. It saddens me when a boxing legend like Roberto Duran, 47 years old, is pounded by a 27-year-old William Joppy he would have destroyed in his prime. It saddens me even more when it happens to wrestlers who I know.

Anyway, I'm glad that Rick Martel retired because it will enable me to remember his great years. I'll leave him with this message:

Rick, whenever you decide to make a comeback, and surely the thought will eventually cross your mind, just think of how stupid some of these older guys look

in the ring, and realize you're one of those older guys, and you're going to look stupid, too. Then sit down, turn on *Live With Regis And Kathie Lee*, have a big glass of orange juice for breakfast, and

just try to enjoy your day.

\*\*\*

The final segment this month is about Chyna, who with all her huge muscles looks as strong, intimidating, and mean as any wrestler in the WWF or WCW. She makes Shawn Michaels look like Madonna. Next to her, Hunter Hearst Helmsley's a cleaning girl. Anyway, during the live August 10 *Raw* telecast, viewers had the enormous pleasure—emphasis on enormous, snickers for pleasure—of seeing Chyna's butt.

Is this what Chyna sacrificed so much time in the gym to do? I, for one, am not interested in her butt. I'd be more interested to see what those impressive muscles can do in competition. My guess is, not much. And I don't mean against men; I mean against other women! I'd love to see Madusa Miceli come back and prove to Chyna that skill and brains are far more important than bulging muscles.

No ifs, ands, or butts. □



Muscles, muscles, and more huge muscles. That's what you see when Chyna strikes a pose. How are these muscles serving Chyna, though. She looks impressive, but, Rosenbaum would like to know, how would she do in a match?

## The Insider

(Continued from page 14)

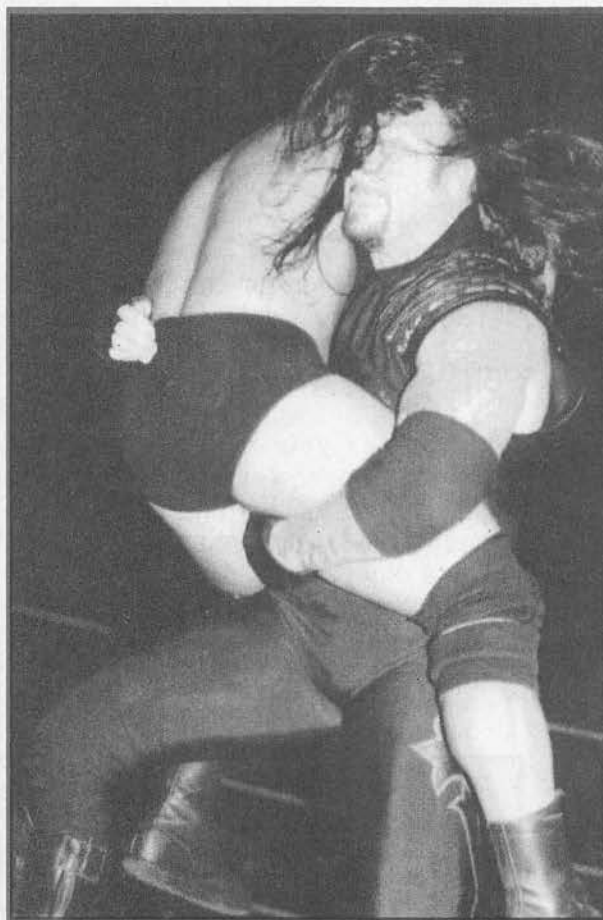
Now, instead of pounding on Kane, he is walking side by side with his evil half-brother. Never mind that Kane defiled their parents' grave. Never mind that he tried to burn big bro' alive as thousands watched on pay-per-view TV. The Undertaker is of a mind to forgive and forget. For those of lower intellectual capacity, that is called character and resolve. 'Taker knew he had made mistakes and was willing to own up to them. After all, a man needs a lot of motivation to throw some Kingsford on his own sibling.

Kane and Undertaker have a history that precedes their days in the WWF. While we have all witnessed the bad times, the good times may have been full of more joy than we can imagine. Fans who boo The Undertaker now are hypocrites. If Scott Steiner washed the bleach out of his hair, shaved off the goatee, and returned to the side of his brother Rick, fans would cheer, and this publishing company would praise "Big Poppa Pump." Same goes for Booker T and Stevie Ray.

But when a fan favorite joins his rulebreaking sibling/friend/partner, it is played out as a tragedy. The announcers wail that the man in question is obviously not using good judgment. In spite of the fact that a dysfunctional family is now becoming more functional, biased observers cry foul. All right, maybe functional is not the word to use here. After all, Kane did let 'Taker beat up dear old Dad. But

it's nice to see these two half-brothers making peace.

And don't even try to suggest that it was not The Undertaker turning bad just a few days before SummerSlam, but Kane turning good. Wrong! Paul Bearer was



'Taker gave it his best shot against Steve Austin at SummerSlam, but he couldn't quite beat him. That's okay. I'm confident that he'll get the job done next time. Austin's lucky streak has to end soon.

sticking his nose in his grown son's business. He was holding back an awesome tandem. Paul should have welcomed The Undertaker back instead of berating him and his boy. By the way, look for Paul to earn his first "Thumbs Up" award in years from this magazine for being a modern-day Ward Cleaver.

I realize that the unpredictability

of this ongoing story should make me resist a final judgment. Pardon my excitement, but this is the equivalent of a baseball team signing Mark McGwire for pennies on the dollar. The Undertaker is a blue chipper with a built-in bad attitude as he returns to the dark side. Creatures of the night, don't let the door hit you on the butt on the way out of the fan club headquarters.

There is also one more wrinkle in this saga. 'Taker knows very well that by joining any anti-Austin alliance that he has by default joined the side of WWF head honcho Vince McMahon. McMahon is desperate to find the ideal corporate champion. He has been looking long and hard for just the charge to wear the honorable belt that Austin has disgraced since WrestleMania XIV. Ironically, he has been looking into the cold, steely eyes of his "dream champion" all along. 'Taker can choke-slam him all he wants. McMahon has found a key to escape from his "Stone-Cold" prison.

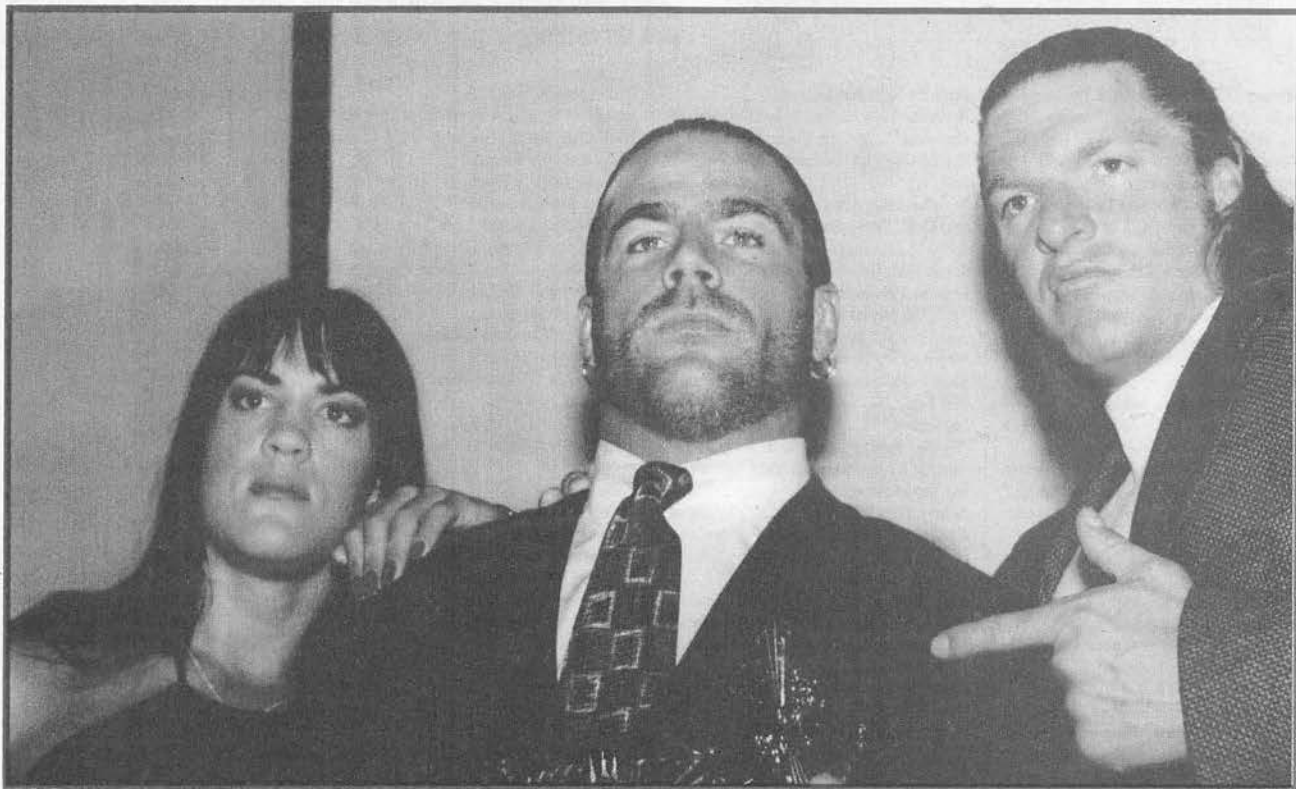
I know, Undertaker lost to Austin right there in the middle of the ring at SummerSlam. The World title was there for him to grab, and he couldn't quite get his hands on it,

but I prefer to look at the bigger picture. The Undertaker has taken a major step in the right direction. He's a champion who needs no belt. With his half-brother by his side, The Undertaker, free of the demons that haunted him for so long, is now ready to unleash some of his own.

His opponents can only hope they'll get to rest in peace. □

## On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)



Prior to WrestleMania XIV, Chyna, Michaels, and Hunter Hearst Helmsley—the original DX—got along fine. Now that “Triple-H” is the established leader of DX, it seems doubtful that he’d welcome Shawn back into the fold.

The New Age Outlaws would have to choose a side as well. Maybe they would split, too. Regardless, there would be no more DX.

This is all speculation, I realize, since we have yet to hear from the current DX leader. Maybe he welcomed Michaels’ help. But most wrestlers are not that trusting. Helmsley more than likely is trying to figure out what ulterior motive HBK had.

Michaels has always enjoyed a good, devious scheme. The man who founded DX is the man who just might destroy it. Could it be a calculated plan to wipe out a bunch of men who humiliated him? Michaels knows what makes Helmsley tick. He knows what sets him off and what cools him down.

“Look, I’m the kind of guy who never shows my hand when I’m

playing poker,” said Michaels. “When I’m ready to come back and get a little more involved in things, everyone from DX to The Nation to Vince McMahon will know it.”

Ominous words from a man with a rather checkered past should make DX nervous. The conspiracy theories abound. What will Michaels’ next move be? Has he secretly met with the other members of DX, sans Hunter? Is Hunter planning to humiliate Shawn again? What does Chyna think? Where does the rest of DX stand on the whole issue? And what about that man on the grassy knoll? Ah, that’s another story.

When DeGeneration X was formed, it was supposed to be the kind of group that laughed in the

face of authority and wrestling tradition. Now we’re more interested in the power struggles within the group than what outlandish stunt they will try to pull next. If anyone thought Shawn Michaels would go quietly into the night after being booted out of DX, they haven’t been watching him very closely over the past few years.

After the mini-press conference ended, Michaels walked past me. He nodded his head in acknowledgment, gave me a wink, and whispered in my ear.

“Liz, honey, remember one thing: No matter what happens, never trust a degenerate.”

That left me with many more questions. The obvious was, to which degenerate was he referring? I guess we’ll find out soon enough. □



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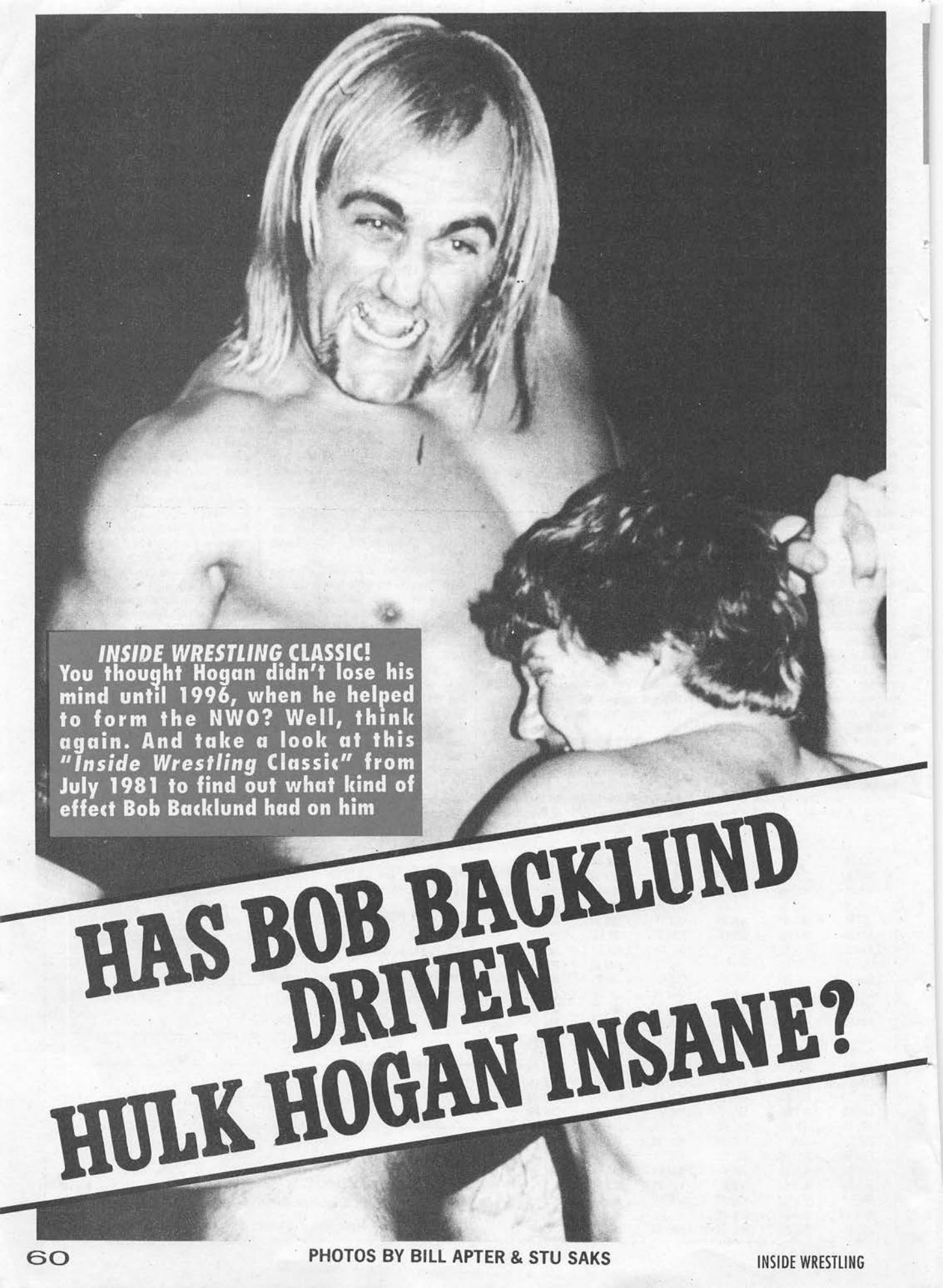
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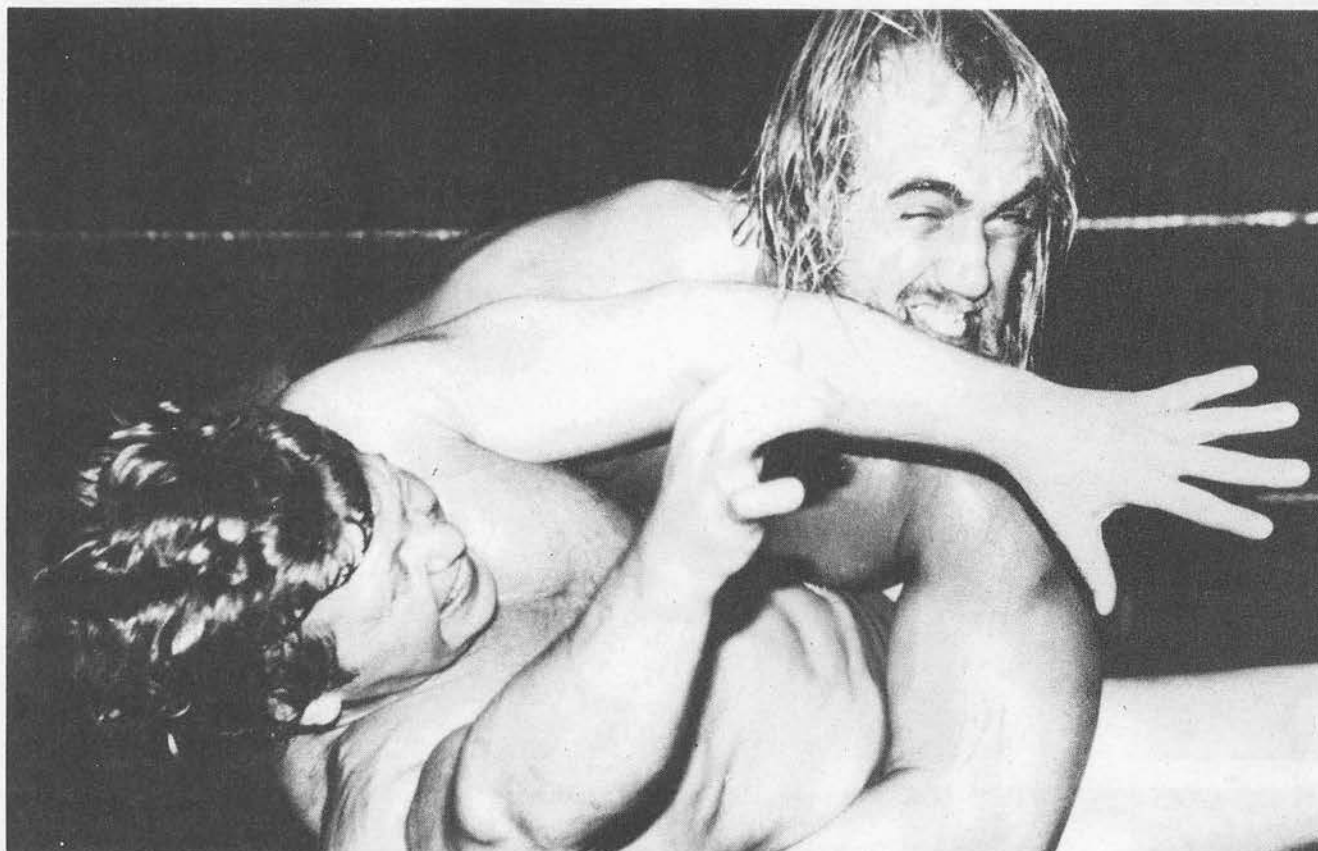


**INSIDE WRESTLING CLASSIC!**  
You thought Hogan didn't lose his mind until 1996, when he helped to form the NWO? Well, think again. And take a look at this "Inside Wrestling Classic" from July 1981 to find out what kind of effect Bob Backlund had on him

# HAS BOB BACKLUND DRIVEN HULK HOGAN INSANE?



**Step by step, Hulk Hogan loses all touch with reality. He cannot understand why one so talented as he cannot receive a shot in Madison Square Garden against WWF champion Bob Backlund. By now, getting a title shot has become an obsession. A dangerous obsession. An obsession driving Hogan insane**



Hulk Hogan narrowly misses pinning Bob Backlund during their WWF title match in New Haven, Connecticut. Hogan feels he rates a chance to wrestle Backlund in prestigious Madison Square Garden. His obsession with that match has altered his personality.

**By Stu Saks**

**I** TOOK A lot of fancy journalistic maneuvering to get my hands on a copy of these two contracts. I had to sweet-talk a legal secretary whom I'd dated while in school to let me look at them. When I suggested she allow me to photo-copy them, the price went up from sweet talk to a dinner. I've got credit cards, so it won't hurt until next month. Besides, the story eases any of the pain.

The contracts I copied both concern Fred Blassie. They are managerial contracts. One with Stan Hansen, the other with

Hulk Hogan.

Just to backtrack a bit, Hogan has been angry recently over Blassie's failure to get him a title shot against Bob Backlund in Madison Square Garden while Blassie arranged for newcomer Hansen to wrestle Backlund in the Garden.

Various theories were advanced as to why Hogan couldn't get a shot while Hansen did. Some believed Blassie merely favored Hansen over Hogan.

"I love 'em both, they're both great guys, great wrestlers,

they're terrific. I think they are different, yet both great," said Blassie.

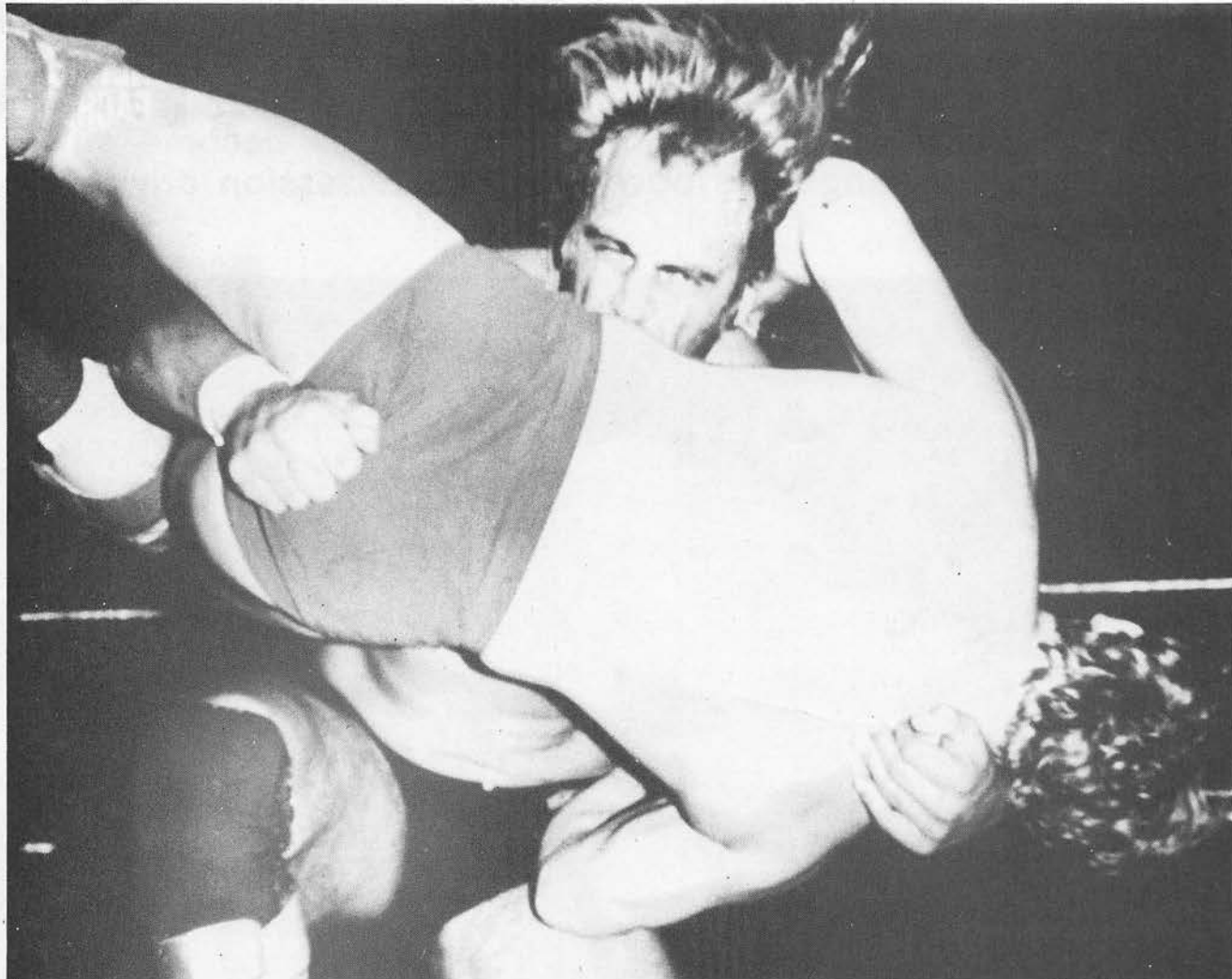
Some believed Blassie was miffed at Hogan's rising independence.

"I can't just sit back and take orders all the time," said Hogan. "I gotta think for myself."

And still another theory claimed Blassie simply felt that Hansen was more capable of defeating Backlund.

"No truth to that at all," insisted Blassie.

Well, none of these theories or any others contemplated are



The powerful Hogan lifts Backlund in the air and drops him across his knee (above). One night before his New Haven title bout, Hogan had a run-in with referee Dick Kroll in Madison Square Garden that is still being investigated by WWF officials. Hogan felt he was wronged by Kroll and viciously attacked the veteran referee after the bout (left). Hogan continues to show signs of mental deterioration as the frustration of being denied a title shot in the Garden mounts.



That's what the contract reveals. If Hansen wrestles in the Garden, Blassie receives a higher percentage than if Hogan does. But why?

According to a senior official in the WWF, Blassie insisted on that clause in the contract. The official recalls the particulars of that meeting: "Blassie thought the Backlund-Hansen match would draw more. He's a shrewd businessman, that Blassie."

But Hogan doesn't believe that. Blassie denies the contract and insists the copy was tampered with. Hansen supports his manager. Yet there is a victim.

His name is Hulk Hogan.

It may be difficult to feel much sympathy for Hogan. He is arrogant, conceited, and cruel. Yet his pain of trying to get a Garden shot has developed into wild frustration. Like the match before his New Haven bout against Backlund.

Hogan wrestled Tony Atlas. His frustrations erupted and, at the end of the match, Hogan assaulted referee Dick Kroll.

"I just wanted to hurt someone," he explained. "The referee said Atlas pinned me, yet everyone in the arena saw my foot on the ropes."

correct. The simple truth of the matter is money. Hard, cold cash, the sort of motivation which makes the Fred Blassies of the world churn forward. No, not loyalty or a desire to better the sport or principles of fair play.

Big bucks, buster.

Through each match, Hogan's madness grows. He flies off the handle quicker. He grows more inarticulate even before the matches and berserk during the matches. All he needs to go crazy is one choice word from a fan and he abandons all his careful training in favor of mayhem.

This obsession with wrestling Backlund in the Garden now impairs Hogan's judgement. He was shown the copy of the contract yet ignored it.

"Not true, Fred wouldn't do that to me," he muttered.

Why won't Hogan admit that Blassie may be selling him out? Even if Blassie *isn't* selling him out and made that decision on a cold, ruthless business angle, Hogan is growing more desperate, more fanatic, his thought processes more befuddled by this one crowning moment in his career.

Hogan thinks he cannot look at himself in the mirror until he wrestles Backlund in the Garden. Literally. For a man as conceited as Hogan not to admire himself in the mirror reveals a shrinking self-image. And to continue to prop himself up, Hogan clutches onto Blassie's friendship while, strange as it may sound, talking himself up even more. Yet the undercurrent of doubt persists.

"Hulk Hogan is the greatest. Right? Hogan is the best, none can compare with me, isn't that so, who else, huh, no one, yeah, I'm the greatest, I'll be untouchable once I wrestle in the Garden against Howdy Doody, none can compare, no one is good, right, isn't that so? Isn't it true Hogan's the best, right, isn't he, me aren't I..."

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Rhodes, Rich, Sammartino, Mascaras, Grahams.

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Tomorrow's Superstars;  
Sammartino, Steamboat, Freebirds.

**FALL/82 Section:**  
Sexiest Superstar; Albano's teams, Hernandez, Mascaras-Sheik.

**WINTER/82 Section:**  
Greatest Card Ever; managers, Valentine, Funk, Rhodes.

**SPRING/83 Section:**  
Personal Questions; Snuka, Mascaras, Chicago supercard.

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Bob Backlund; Lawler, Gagne, Sheik, Mascaras, then and now.

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WCW Stars; Steve O, Studd, Bruiser.

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Secret Fears; Color Action Gallery: Tommy Rich.

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Personal Questions; Color Action Gallery: Andre the Giant.

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Dream Tag Teams; Color Action Gallery: Kevin Von Erich.

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Men Wrestlers Fear Most; Dream Match: Hawk & Animal vs. Zenk & Martel; Color Action Gallery: Rick Steamboat.

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Top 20 Tag Teams; Dream Match: Luger vs. Savage; Color Action Gallery: Great American Bash.

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Don't Trust These Men! Dream Match: Sammartino vs. Hogan; Color Action Gallery: Randy Savage.

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Sexiest Superstar; Dream Match: Flair vs. Savage; Color Action Gallery: Rick Rude.

**WINTER/89 Section:**  
Top 20 Stars; Dream Match: Elizabeth vs. Sherri; Color Action Gallery: Blanchard & Anderson.

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Greatest Finishing Maneuvers; Dream Match: Hogan vs. Luger; Color Action Gallery: Hulk Hogan.

**AUGUST/90 Section:**  
Don't Trust These Men! Dream Match: Ultimate Warrior vs. Flair; Color Action Gallery: Norman.

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50 Strongest Wrestlers; Dream Match: Tag Team Extravaganza; Color Action Gallery: Steve Williams.

**DECEMBER/90 Section:**  
Sexiest Superstars; Dream Match: Hennig-Rude; Color Action Gallery: Missy Hyatt.

**FEBRUARY/91 Section:**  
Wrestling's Next Champions; Dream Match: Sting vs. Luger; Color Action Gallery: Legion of Doom.

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Teams We'd Like to See; Dream Match: Hogan vs. Ultimate Warrior; Color Action Gallery: Sid Vicious.

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Wrestling's Best; Dream Match: Strongest Man Competition; Color Action Gallery: Ric Flair.

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Top 20 Stars; Dream Match: LOD vs. Steiners; Color Action Gallery: Curt Hennig.

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These Men Must Be Banned! Dream Match: Andre-Gigante; Color Action Gallery: The Undertaker.

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Top 20 Tag Teams; Dream Match: Battle Royal of Champions; Color Action Gallery: Steiners.

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Wrestlers To Make '92 Sizzle; Dream Match: Bret Hart vs. Sting; Color Action Gallery: Cactus Jack.

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Little-Known Facts; Dream Match: Hogan vs. Justice; Color Action Gallery: Johnny B. Badd.

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Dangerous Matches; Dream Match: Ultimate Dream Supercard; Color Action Gallery: Dangerous Matches.

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Greatest WrestleMania Matches; Dream Match: Kamala vs. Abdullah; Steiners, Sting-Cactus.

**SEPTEMBER/92 Section:**  
Most Complete Wrestlers; Dream Match: IRS vs. Windham; Shango, Owen, Steamboat vs. Rude.

**OCTOBER/92 Section:**  
Overrated/Underrated; Dream Match: Michaels vs. Jannetty; Money Inc., Olympic wrestlers.

**DECEMBER/92 Section:**  
21st Century Stars; Dream Match: R. Steiner & Williams vs. S. Steiner & Gordy; Money Inc., Jarrett.

**JANUARY/93 Section:**  
Great Arenas; Dream Match: Halloween Horrors Battle Royal; Steamboat-Austin, Undertaker-Flair, Pillman.

**MARCH/93 Section:**  
Hot '93 Wrestlers; Dream Match: Hart vs. Simmons; Steamboat-Pillman, Tyson to wrestle.

**APRIL/93 Section:**  
Tag Team We'd Like to See; Dream Match: Dusty & Dustin vs. Bill & Erik Watts; Badd, Vader.

**JUNE/93 Section:**  
Wrestling's Best; Dream Match: Vader vs. Yokozuna; Missy & Flair, Windham, Cactus & Orndorff.

**AUGUST/93 Section:**  
Top 20 Stars; Dream Match: Rude vs. Madusa; Duggan, Gilbert, Watts, Wippleman.

**OCTOBER/93 Section:**  
These Men Must Be Banned! Dream Match: Hogan & Beefcake vs. Sting & Davey Boy; Michaels, Rhodes.

**DECEMBER/93 Section:**  
Top 20 Tag Teams; Dream Match: Lex Luger's challenge; Michaels, Hawk, Adams, Eaton & Benoit.

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10 Stars To Make '94 Sizzle; Dream Match: Cactus vs. Dink; Sting, Steiners, Sabu.

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10 Stars Who Are An Embarrassment; Dream Match: Bret vs. Sting; Hogan, Dustin, Vader & Rake.

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10 Fan Favorites You Should Be Ashamed To Cheer; Dream Match: Vader & Bigelow vs. Yokozuna & Earthquake.

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Turnbuckle Turkey Awards! Dream Match: Hogan vs. Hart vs. Vader; Lawler, Flair, Douglas.

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Personal Questions; Dream Match: All-time NWA title tourney; Simmons, Hogan, Cornette, Backlund.

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Top 20 Stars; Dream Match: All-time WWF title tourney; Simmons, Steiners, Inoki-Sting.

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Top 20 tag teams; Dream Match: Hogan vs. Flair, LT, Sid, Sandman, Lawler, Hogan.

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Superstars Of Tomorrow; Dream Match: Undertaker vs. Vader; Diesel-Ramón, Jarrett, Wright, Michaels.

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Report cards; Dream Match: Wrestling's Dream World; Diesel, Gibson, Luger-Hogan, Ramon-Kid, Mexicans.

**SPRING/97 Section:**  
Top 20 Stars; Dream Match: Hall & Nash vs. New Diesel & New Razor; Hogan-Piper, Jarrett, Yoko, Ahmed.

**SUMMER/97 Section:**  
Top 20 Tag Teams; Dream Match: Piper vs. Austin; NWO, NOD, Michaels, Liger.

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- ☐ DECEMBER/77
- ☐ FALL/80
- ☐ FALL/81
- ☐ FALL/82
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## TOP 15

## 1—STEVE AUSTIN

(1) WWF World champion

## 2—BILL GOLDBERG

(2) WCW World champion

## 3—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(10) WWF Intercontinental champion

## 4—BRET HART

(3) WCW U.S. champion

## 5—KENTA KOBASHI

(5) All-Japan Triple Crown champion

## 6—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

(9) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

## 7—THE UNDERTAKER

(4) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

## 8—MASA CHONO

(7) IWGP heavyweight champion

## 9—CHRIS JERICO

(14) WCW TV champion

## 10—ROB VAN DAM

(11) ECW TV champion

## 11—KANE

(12) No. 5 contender: WWF World title

## 12—KEN SHAMROCK

(8) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

## 13—ROCKY MAIVIA

(6) No. 1 contender: WWF Intercontinental title

## 14—JUVENTUD GUERRERA

(–) WCW cruiserweight champion

## 15—OWEN HART

(–) No. 7 contender: WWF World title

## WCW

## 1—BILL GOLDBERG

(1) 270, Tulsa, OK

## 2—BRET HART

(2) 235, Calgary, Alberta

## 3—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

(3) 260, Tampa, FL

## 4—CHRIS JERICO

(4) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia

## 5—JUVENTUD GUERRERA

(9) 165, Mexico City, Mexico

## 6—HOLLYWOOD HOGAN

(7) 275, Venice Beach, CA

## 7—STING

(8) 260, Venice Beach, CA

## 8—LEX LUGER

(6) 265, Chicago, IL

## 9—THE GIANT

(5) 510, parts unknown

## 10—KONNAN

(13) 237, Mexico City, Mexico

## 11—KEVIN NASH

(12) 356, Detroit, MI

## 12—CURT HENNIG

(10) 235, Minneapolis, MN

## 13—STEVIE RAY

(–) 265, Harlem, NY

## 14—DEAN MALENKO

(14) 216, Tampa, FL

## 15—PERRY SATURN

(–) 234, Boston, MA

## WWF

## 1—STEVE AUSTIN

(1) 252, Victoria, TX

## 2—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(5) 279, Greenwich, CT

## 3—THE UNDERTAKER

(3) 328, parts unknown

## 4—KEN SHAMROCK

(6) 235, San Bernardino, CA

## 5—ROCKY MAIVIA

(2) 272, Miami, FL

## 6—KANE

(4) 345, parts unknown

## 7—D-LO BROWN

(10) 305, Bronx, NY

## 8—OWEN HART

(7) 227, Calgary, Alberta

## 9—X-PAC

(8) 212, Minneapolis, MN

## 10—JEFF JARRETT

(14) 230, Nashville, TN

## 11—VADER

(9) 450, Denver, CO

## 12—VAL VENIS

(11) 250, Las Vegas, NV

## 13—MANKIND

(–) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM

## 14—BRADSHAW

(–) 309, Roscoe, TX

## 15—MARC MERO

(–) 235, Buffalo, NY

## ECW

## 1—SHANE DOUGLAS

(1) 240, Pittsburgh, PA

## 2—ROB VAN DAM

(2) 237, Battle Creek, MI

## 3—TAZ

(3) 248, Red Hook, NY

## 4—CHRIS CANDIDO

(8) 226, Carteret, NJ

## 5—JUSTIN CREDIBLE

(4) 225, Waterbury, CT

## 6—BAM BAM BIGELOW

(5) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

## 7—TOMMY DREAMER

(7) 245, Yonkers, NY

## 8—MASATO TANAKA

(6) 235, Tokyo, Japan

## 9—THE SANDMAN

(12) 244, Philadelphia, PA

## 10—LANCE STORM

(9) 234, Calgary, Alberta

## 11—MIKEY WHIPWRECK

(10) 187, New York, NY

## 12—SPIKE DUDLEY

(13) 155, parts unknown

## 13—JERRY LYNN

(14) 214, Minneapolis, MN

## 14—CHRIS CHETTI

(15) 227, Amityville, NY

## 15—TRACEY SMOTHERS

(–) 227, Atlanta, GA

## INTERNATIONAL

## 1—KENTA KOBASHI

(1) 261, Fukuchiyama, Japan

## 2—MASA CHONO

(2) 235, Tokyo, Japan

## 3—UNIVERSO DOS MIL

(3) 240, Mexico City, Mexico

## 4—PERRO AGUAYO SR.

(5) 220, Zacatecas, Mexico

## 5—EL HIJO DEL SANTO

(10) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico

## 6—HAYABUSA

(4) 175, Osaka, Japan

## 7—PIRATA MORGAN

(6) 221, Mexico City, Mexico

## 8—SHINYA HASHIMOTO

(7) 287, Gifu, Japan

## 9—JUSHIN LIGER

(15) 206, Hiroshima, Japan

## 10—FRANZ SCHUMANN

(9) 201, Graz, Austria

## 11—KONNAN

(14) 237, Mexico City, Mexico

## 12—GREAT SASUKE

(8) 212, Morioka, Japan

## 13—ABISMO NEGRO

(13) 190, Mexico City, Mexico

## 14—RICKY SANTANA

(–) 239, San Juan, Puerto Rico

## 15—DOUG GILBERT

(–) 241, Lexington, TN

## TOP 15 TAG TEAMS

## 1—BILLY GUNN &amp; JESSE JAMES

(5) WWF World tag team champions

## 2—THE GIANT &amp; SCOTT HALL

(2) WCW World tag team champions

## 3—SABU &amp; ROB VAN DAM

(3) ECW tag team champions

## 4—SHIRO KOSHINAKA &amp; GENICHIRO TENRYU

(4) IWGP tag team champions

## 5—TOSHIKI KAWADA &amp; AKIRA TAUE

(7) All-Japan International tag team champions

## 6—BUH BUH RAY &amp; D-VON DUDLEY

(9) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

## 7—D-LO BROWN &amp; ROCKY MAIVIA

(–) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

## 8—EIGHT-BALL &amp; SKULL

(8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

## 9—STEVEN DUNN &amp; RENO RIGGINS

(–) NWA North American tag team champions

## 10—BORDER PATROL

(14) NWA tag team champions

## 11—DISCO INFERNO &amp; ALEX WRIGHT

(15) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

## 12—THE HEADBANGERS

(–) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

## 13—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER &amp; SCOTT TAYLOR

(–) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title

## 14—SOUTHERN JUSTICE

(13) No. 5 contenders: WWF World tag title

## 15—THE PIT BULLS

(–) NWA U.S. tag team champions

*These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.*

**For period ended September 11, 1998**

## ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

**ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: KENTA KOBASHI**  
(June 12, 1998; from Toshiaki Kawada; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**TOSHIKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUÉ**  
(January 25, 1998; from Johnny Ace & Kenta Kobashi; Yokohama, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: KENTA KOBASHI**  
(June 12, 1998; from Toshiaki Kawada; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-PRO WRESTLING UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: MAXX JUSTICE**  
(May 16, 1998; from Sam Fatu; Pinole, CA)

**AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ROBERT ROMA**  
(July 11, 1998; from Chainz; Stuart, VA)

**AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**RICK DEEZEL & DANIEL MAYES**  
(May 9, 1998; from Generation X; Elkin, NC)

**AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION U.S. CHAMPION: STEVE NILES**  
(August 29, 1998; from Easy Rider; Stuart, VA)

**ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHANE DOUGLAS**  
(November 30, 1997; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Monaca, PA)

**ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROB VAM DAM & SABU**  
(June 27, 1998; from Chris Candido & Lance Storm; Philadelphia, PA)

**ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: ROB VAN DAM**  
(April 4, 1998; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Buffalo, NY)

**INT'L PRO WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOM BRANDI**  
(June 13, 1998; from King Kong Bundy; Lebanon, PA)

**IPWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BUDDY LANDELL**  
(June 13, 1998; from Jimmy Cicero; Alexandria, VA)

**IPWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JULIO SANCHEZ**  
(August 22, 1998; from Christian York; Chincoteague, VA)

**IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASA CHONO**  
(August 8, 1998; from Tatsumi Fujinami; Osaka, Japan)

**IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**SHIRO KOSHINAKA & GENICHIRO TENRYU**  
(July 15, 1998; from Masahiro Chono & Hiroyoshi Tenzan; Sapporo, Japan)

**IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER**  
(February 7, 1998; from Shinjiro Otani; Sapporo, Japan)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN SEVERN**  
(February 24, 1995; from Chris Candido; Erlanger, KY)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: 911**  
(August 21, 1998; from Ace Darling; Fairless Hills, PA)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE NATIONAL CHAMPION: STEVIE RICHARDS**  
(August 22, 1998; from Doug Gilbert; Mount Holly, NJ)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: THE COLORADO KID**  
(August 1, 1998; from Recon; Nashville, TN)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**STEVEN DUNN & RENO RIGGINS**  
(August 29, 1998; from Wolfie D & Flash Flanagan; Nashville, TN)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BORDER PATROL**  
(August 14, 1998; from The Midnight Express; Greenville, NC)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE PIT BULLS**  
(August 22, 1998; from Steve Corino & Lance Diamond; Mount Holly, NJ)

**NWA NEW ENGLAND CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: TRE**  
(May 9, 1998; from Millennium; Somerville, MA)

**NWA NEW ENGLAND HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERICH SBRACCIA**  
(January 24, 1998; beat Vic Steamboat in tournament final; Ridgefield, CT)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KENTA KOBASHI**  
(June 12, 1998; from Toshiaki Kawada; Tokyo, Japan)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:**  
**YOSHINARI OGAWA**  
(July 19, 1998; beat Satoru Asako in tournament final; Niigata, Japan)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**TOSHIKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUÉ**  
(January 25, 1998; from Johnny Ace & Kenta Kobashi; Yokohama, Japan)

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING AMERICAS CHAMPION:**  
**RECKLESS YOUTH**  
(June 27, 1998; from Lance Diamond; Pottstown, PA)

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:**  
**JULIO SANCHEZ**  
(June 19, 1998; from Tiger Khan; Reading, PA)

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**LANCE DIAMOND & RECKLESS YOUTH**  
(July 24, 1998; from Inferno Kid & Mike Quackenbush; Reading, PA)

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ITALIAN STALLION**  
(June 27, 1998; from George South; Gaffney, SC)

**WCW CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUVENTUD GUERRERA**  
(August 8, 1998; from Chris Jericho; Sturgis, SD)

**WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: CHRIS JERICHO**  
(August 10, 1998; beat Stevie Ray; Rapid City, SD)

**WCW U.S. CHAMPION: BRET HART**  
(August 13, 1998; from Lex Luger; Fargo, ND)

**WCW WORLD CHAMPION: BILL GOLDBERG**  
(July 6, 1998; from Hollywood Hogan; Atlanta, GA)

**WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE GIANT & SCOTT HALL**  
(July 20, 1998; from Kevin Nash & Sting; Salt Lake City, UT)

**WWF EUROPEAN CHAMPION: D-LO BROWN**  
(July 14, 1998; from Hunter Hearst Helmsley; Binghamton, NY)

**WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY**  
(August 30, 1998; from Rocky Maivia; New York, NY)

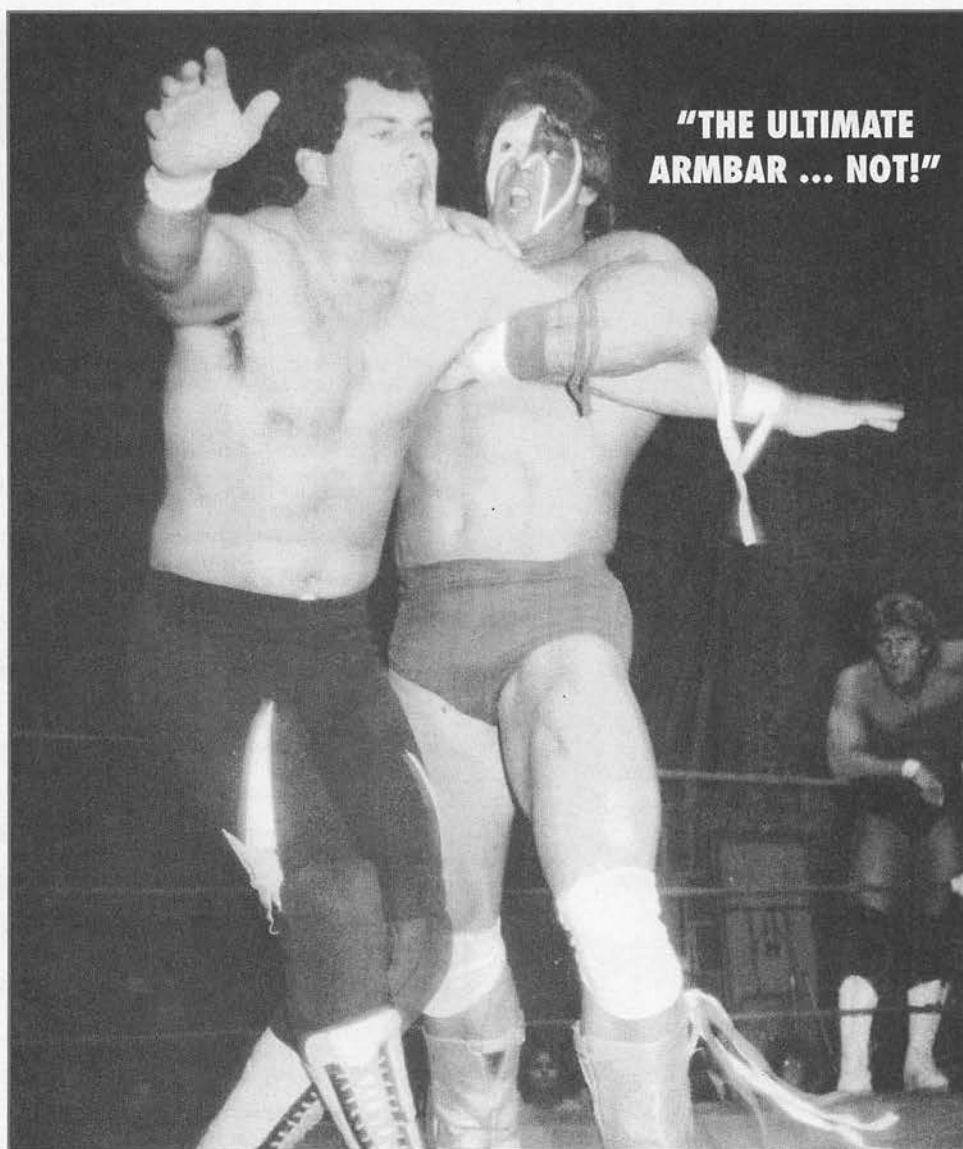
**WWF LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TAKA MICHINOKU**  
(December 7, 1997; beat Brian Christopher in tournament final; Springfield, MA)

**WWF WORLD CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN**  
(June 29, 1998; from Kane; Cleveland, OH)

**WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES**  
(August 30, 1998; beat Mankind; New York, NY)

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

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